

Warring sides agree Vance deal

UN raises hope of peace force in Yugoslavia

BY ANN MCELVOY IN ZAGREB AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CYRUS Vance, the UN envoy to Yugoslavia, announced a breakthrough in his peace mission yesterday, saying that Serbia and Croatia had agreed an ambitious plan to send peacekeeping forces to the divided country.

"I have seen steps taken that have not been taken before," the acceptance of our proposed plan in its entirety by both sides," Mr Vance said after meeting the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman.

"The situation is radically changed since I came and observed what I had observed. We have a way to go but we think we have made some real progress," he said.

The optimistic remarks offered a new message of hope to the Balkan state, convulsed by six months of conflict in which at least 6,000 people have been killed.

Acceptance of the UN peacekeeping plan, by the warring sides means agreement that units of the Serb-dominated federal army will



be replaced in disputed areas of Croatia by the UN intervention force. But deployment of the 10,000-strong UN force still hinges on a stable ceasefire being secured. Fourteen previous agreements, mostly brokered by the European Community and the UN, have collapsed.

Bitter fighting continued across Croatia yesterday. Zagreb radio reported the first war victims of the new year, saying three people had been killed in fierce clashes between Croatian forces and the federal army around the coastal town of Zadar.

Vinkovci, on the eastern Croatian frontier, came under some of its heaviest artillery and rocket bombardment so far, with dozens of buildings reported to have been destroyed in the night and many left burning yesterday. At Karlovac, the industrial city 30 miles south of Zagreb, and nearby Duga Resa, residents spent New Year's eve in underground shelters. Heavy artillery attacks began at midnight and lasted until daybreak. Fighting also took place at Otocac, Belisce and Valpovo although no casualties were reported.

Zagreb entered the new year under blackout with no one venturing on to the central square, the traditional meeting point for revelers at midnight. At that moment national guardians across the city fired off deafening rounds of ammunition and the sky was lit up by pink tracer flares.

Crowds, gathered to see in the new year in the two main hotels, rose to sing Croatian marching songs and shouted: "This year will be the year of our victory."

The part of the UN plan concerning the role of external forces and where they should be positioned had been the subject of disagreement between the two sides. Serbs in Croatia feared that the withdrawal of the army, as part of the plan, would leave them open to attack by Croats, while the Croatian leadership believed that the deployment of UN troops inside its territory would confirm the gains already made by pro-Serbian forces.

The agreement was reached after Mr Vance had met Serb and federal leaders in Belgrade on Tuesday and Mr Tudjman in Zagreb yesterday. He told them that this was their last chance to establish peace with outside help.

Mr Vance is to hold talks with Croatian and federal military leaders in Bosnia today to discuss the practicalities of establishing a ceasefire and preventing its breakdown by the individual actions of local commanders.

The consent to the UN plan means that forces could be deployed in warring areas

within weeks. But it is still far from clear whether local Serb leaders in enclaves within Croatia will back the plan and support the army's withdrawal from their areas.

In the Krajina region, which has declared itself a "Serbian autonomous republic", the leader, Milan Babic, has said repeatedly that he would consider any agreement to UN intervention to be treason against the majority Serb population in Belgrade.

While General Veljko Kadijevic, the federal defence minister, assured Mr Vance that such figures would be brought into line, there is still considerable scepticism about Belgrade's influence on extremist Serbs in Croatia.

The UN envisages sending the force of some 10,000 to eastern Slavonia, western Slavonia and the Krajina, the three areas where fighting has been most extensive.

Meanwhile, in Rome, the Pope, rising to the defence of Roman Catholic Croatia, said yesterday that the civil war was humiliating for the whole of Europe. "Let all those who are suffering — especially the people of Croatia — know that they do not stand alone," he told thousands gathered in St Peter's Square on the 25th world day of peace proclaimed by the church.

"The news we are getting about destruction and the massacre of innocents is blood-chilling. All Europe should feel affected and humiliated by such cruelty," he said. "Our compassion and solidarity goes out to those who are suffering most in a civil war that seems to trample on the most elementary human rules."

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Vance: "We have made some real progress"



High flyers: American cheerleaders during the Mayor of Westminster's new year parade. Diary, page 12

Relaxed Major backs beleaguered Lamont

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister admitted yesterday that the government's economic forecasts had proved over-optimistic and blamed the unforeseen length and depth of the recession on an unexpected slowdown in the big Western economies.

However, John Major reiterated his belief that a recovery was now under way in Britain and explicitly ruled

out any easing of the government's tough anti-inflationary stance.

He also came to the aid of Norman Lamont, his beleaguered chancellor, saying criticism of him was unfair and he was doing a difficult job extremely well.

In a relaxed and measured performance betraying few signs of the pressure he is under with Labour ahead in

the polls and an election within the next six months, Mr Major sought to flesh out his vision of a society at ease with itself. He wanted to abolish envy in society and to dispel people's fears about their prospects.

The prime minister offered a subtle departure from Margaret Thatcher's more abrasive brand of conservatism by emphasising the importance of publicly funded health and education services, the welfare safety net for the poor and cooperation between government and industry. But in remarks that will please Tory right-wingers, he insisted that tax cuts and targeted increases in public spending could go hand in hand.

With currency dealers returning from holiday today to begin testing the strength of the government's commitment to the pound, Mr Major echoed Treasury ministers by saying that interest rates would be raised if necessary. He brushed aside calls from some Conservative MPs for devaluation by saying that

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City gloom

Merchant banks face more job losses and cost cutting this year after another fall in the volume of mergers and acquisitions business and continuing pressure on fees. The value of bids completed last year fell by £2 bn to £10 bn.

Report, page 30

Ulcer drugs blamed for alcohol risk

TWO of the most widely used anti-ulcer drugs, Zantac and Tagamet, have been identified by an American medical study as increasing the absorption rate of alcohol into the bloodstream.

A warning could be necessary when the drugs are prescribed, especially for social drinkers who may drive or operate machinery, says a survey in the authoritative *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The study suggested that Zantac and Tagamet increased blood alcohol concentrations by 34 per cent and 92 per cent respectively in a group of 20 healthy white males aged 24 to 26.

Zantac is made by Glaxo, Britain's biggest pharmaceutical company, while Tagamet is manufactured by the Anglo-American combine SmithKline Beecham. Glaxo said last night other research, including a study last year, had failed to show any link with alcohol consumption. page 9, 30

Bread costs to quadruple

After seven decades of rigid central planning, Russians and Ukrainians today wake up to spiralling free market prices for food and other goods. Shops were closed yesterday for New Year's day.

President Yeltsin of Russia appealed to people not to panic and Yegor Gaidar, architect of the price reform, said he was sure that there would be no civil unrest. page 7

De Cuellar's peace finale

Javier Pérez de Cuellar yesterday ended his tenure as UN Secretary General by negotiating an El Salvador peace deal. "I am a free man, I feel as light as a feather," he said. page 8
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Wife killer dies in crash

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE were last night investigating a New Year's eve tragedy in north Wales in which a distraught husband stabbed his wife to death, wounded five relatives and died in a car crash which also killed three young men.

The five who died in less than an hour included Vernon Reynolds, aged 44, and his estranged wife, Denise, aged 39. The couple had been running a guest house and had three children.

The killings happened just before 11.15pm on Tuesday. Police were called to Clowery House, Church Walks, Llan-

duddo, and found Mrs Reynolds dead and five of her family injured. Last night her father Victor Fryer, aged 60, from Colindale, north London, and Pauline Nash, her sister from Dunstable, Bedfordshire, were seriously ill in hospital.

Three other relatives, including Mrs Reynolds's mother Ada, aged 59, were sent home after treatment. Several of the Reynolds children were in the house during the killing and were unharmed.

As police began a search for Mr Reynolds just before the

new year they were called to a car crash ten miles from Llandudno on the A470 near Tal-y-cafn. The wanted man's Morris Ital had crashed into a Mini, killing both Mr Reynolds and the three men in the other car. The three came from the Llandudno area and were named as Robert John Jones, aged 24; Arwyn Roberts, in his early 20s, and Brynley Roberts, aged 18. The two Roberts were not related. Yesterday police said no one was being sought for the murder of Mrs Reynolds or for having caused the

Continued on page 2, col 4

Royal family's productivity rises by 10%

BY ELAINE FOGG

THE royal family increased its official workload in 1991, attending 3,270 events in the United Kingdom, 324 more than in 1990, and 1,022 during official tours abroad.

The Princess Royal is still the most dedicated worker in terms of numbers of engagements. She undertook 504 engagements in the United Kingdom and 241 abroad. Younger royals also appear to be working harder, most notably the Duchess of York. Prince Edward and the Princess of Wales.

The Duke of Edinburgh, out of the limelight recently, had 587 engagements at home and abroad, six more

than the Queen. The Duchess of York almost doubled her workload, attending 213 royal occasions in the UK and abroad, compared with 108 in 1990.

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, seems an indefatigable member of the family. Her appearances were increased in 1990 because it was her 90th birthday year, but her engagements last year, at 102, exceeded 1989's by 12.

Princess Margaret did not have any overseas engagements in 1991, but made 103 appearances at home. This is down on her total of 148 United Kingdom engagements for 1990, when she had a busier official diary in her capacity as president

of the National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Rough "pay scales", calculated by dividing individual allocations from the Civil List by the number of public engagements, have previously provoked palace officials, who had to deal with an avalanche of queries after the rumour caused when Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP, proposed a parliamentary motion to abolish the Queen's exemption from tax on her private wealth. The bill, was given an unopposed first reading in the Commons last year but, as purely a test of opinion, could progress no further. Had it become law the Treas-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS IN 1991

	A	B	C	D	E	F
The Queen	132	66	257	26	126	455
Duke of Edinburgh	143	115	40	71	289	298
The Queen Mother	45	22	14	2	2	100
Princess of Wales	134	62	105	54	158	301
Duchess of Wales	107	44	27	25	139	258
Duke of York	45	27	11	9	24	85
Duchess of York	141	19	10	16	43	170
Prince Edward	101	66	28	16	56	195
Princess Margaret	332	98	76	54	241	504
Princess Alice	75	19	9	0	0	103
Duchess of Gloucester	28	9	14	0	0	51
Duke of Gloucester	98	28	18	25	N/A	144
Duchess of Kent	65	22	10	7	N/A	97
Duke of Kent	137	32	21	35	N/A	180
Duchess of Kent	132	19	22	20	N/A	173
Princess Alexandra	65	31	22	7	N/A	148

A: official visits, opening ceremonies, other appearances. B: receptions, luncheons, banquets. C: other engagements including investitures. D: days abroad on official tours. E: engagements on official tours abroad. F: engagements in the UK. N/A: no details available.

INSIDE

BLACK FILM



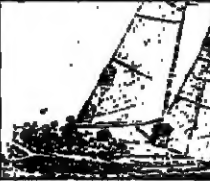
Marie-Laure Dougnac is the innocent in the superb and cannibalistic *Delicatessen*. Page 11

HEALTH



Mother Teresa's illness may have helped improve the care of elderly people. Page 9

BOAT BOOM



The 38th London International Boat Show at Earls Court is 25 per cent larger, with 800 craft, than last year 20-page supplement

SPORT



Alec Stewart captains the England cricket team for the first time in tomorrow's match in New Zealand. Page 24



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Record number of MPs to retire before next election

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

FROM the moment the House of Commons returns on January 13, an election battle will be underway. But of the present Commons' 650 MPs a near record number will have fought their last fight. Eighty MPs have said they will retire or fight under new colours at the general election, which many MPs expect to be called for May 7.

Whatever happens then, the new Commons will lose one of its most commanding presences. Margaret Thatcher will not contest the Finchley seat held since 1959. Leaving with her will be ten former members of her cabinet: Sir Ian Gilmour, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson, John Moore, Cecil Parkinson, Nicholas Ridley, Norman Tebbit, John Wakeham, Peter Walker and George Younger.

Also leaving are another 15 former Tory front benches: Julian Amery, Sir Peter Blaker, Robert Boscawen, Sir Bernard Braine, Sir Anthony Duck, Sir William Clark, Sir Paul Dean, Sir John Farr, Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, Sir Ian Gilmour, Sir Alan Glyn, Sir Philip Goodhart, Sir Eidon Griffiths, Christopher Hawkins, Sir Barney Hayhoe, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Sir Charles Irving, Michael Latham, Nigel Lawson, Sir Richard Lucas, Sir Ian Lloyd, Sir Robert McCrindle, Sir Michael, McNeil-Wilson, Sir Robin, Maxwell-Hyslop, Sir Anthony Meyer, Sir Hal Miller, Norman Milsom, John Moore, Sir Charles Morrison, Sir Peter Morrison, David Mudd, Cecil Parkinson, Sir David Price, Keith Rafter, Sir Timothy Raison, Sir Robert, Rhodes-James, Nicholas Ridley, Sir Julian Ridsdale, Peter Rost, Sir Michael Shaw, Ivor Stanbrook, Sir John Stokes, Norman Tebbit, Margaret Thatcher, Peter Walker, John Wakeham, Sir Dennis Walters, Kenneth Warren, Mike Woodcock, George Younger.

Paul Dean, Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, Sir Philip Goodhart, Sir Eidon Griffiths, Sir Barney Hayhoe, Sir Richard Lucas, Sir Neil Macfarlane, Sir Peter Morrison, and Sir Timothy Raison.

On the Labour side the best-known names bowing out are Michael Foot, Denis Healey, Merlyn Rees and Jack Ashley, the deaf champion of the disabled.

Mr Healey, ex-chancellor, ex-defence secretary, name-dropper, extraordinary and probably the best leader Labour never had, is departing from Leeds East, while the man who beat him to the party's top honour, Michael Foot, is to end a parliamentary career which began in 1945.

Nine of the Conservatives who have already decided to leave have collected the knighthoods which Mrs Thatcher bestowed on long-time servants of the party, including two of the oldest, Sir Alan Glyn, aged 71, and Sir John Stokes, 72. Robin

Maxwell-Hyslop, the maverick procedural expert who has sat for Tiverton since 1960, will leave without such a handle. He is believed to have been one of the few to decline such a reward.

The retirement of Robert Boscawen, a longtime Tory whip and member for Somerset and Frome, will deprive the Commons of its last holder of the Military Cross.

The departure of Sir Ian Lloyd (Havant) will lose the South African government a doughty defender and that of Sir John Farr, 67 (Harborough), will deprive the field sports fraternity of a voice.

Racing buffs will need a new representative and the campaign for proportional representation will be weakened on the departure of Sir Charles Morrison (Devizes).

Departing comparatively early are former whip William Benyon (Milton Keynes) at 60, and one-time journalist Peter Rost, 59 (Erewash), and David Mudd, 56 (Falmouth and Camborne).

More surprisingly, Christopher Hawkins is to leave marginal High Peak at only 52 and Michael Latham, widely considered unlikely not to have held ministerial office, quits Rutland and Melton at 47. Mr Latham, a housing expert, has lost the taste for the crudities of party battle.

In Labour's ranks, the miners' group is losing traditional stalwarts in former energy minister Alex Eadie (Midlothian) and Michael Welsh (Doncaster North). Allen McKay (Barnsley West and Penistone) has a life's work in steel and coal industries behind him.

Rotherham's Stan Crowther, who was twice mayor of the town, is going out at 64. Other distinctive northern voices quitting are those of Ted Garrett (Walsall) at 69 and Ted Leadbitter (Hartlepool) at 70. Former teacher Martin Flannery, now 71, is leaving Sheffield, Hillsborough, and Co-op stalwart Harry Ewing, a former Scottish Office Minister, leaves Falkirk East at 59.

Dick Douglas, who left the Labour party over what he saw as its restrained opposition to the poll tax, will this time fight the seat held by Labour's Scottish spokesman Donald Dewar as a Scottish Nationalist. Another Scot

aged 11, and Caroline, aged seven. One neighbour said yesterday: "Last night there was a family get-together at Clovelly House and Denise's relatives joined her and the two girls. They had not seen each other for a few years because Vernon would not let them in the house."

A taxi driver with whom Mr Reynolds used to work part-time said he believed he was jealous, thinking that his wife might have found another man. "I believe his wife threw him out. It was a hell of a blow for him."

Ellis Robertson, aged 81, a retired headmaster, and his wife Elaine, aged 68, who live in a flat opposite Clovelly House, said they had found the Reynolds a delightful family. Mrs Robertson said: "They were the nicest couple you could meet, and the children are absolutely beautiful. The children are outgoing and sporting. The shock is like something happening in

my own family. You would not have believed that anything like that would ever have happened. Only a fortnight ago I was talking to her and she was saying how she would love to go on holiday to the United States. We feel desperately sorry for the children."

Mr Robertson said: "When the police told us what had happened we could not believe it. We had seen an ambulance there but thought it was a New Year's eve problem but nothing as terrible as has happened."

Earlier Colin Rogers, aged 43, of Bryn Celyn, Upper Colwyn Bay, a panel beater, said: "Vernon told me his marriage had broken down. Vernon was as straight as a die and very hard working. He has put a lot of work into the house, including building an extension. It was only just finished when he dropped the bombshell and said they had split. Last week the couple had done Christmas shopping together and maybe he thought it was a way of mending the rift. I do not think he would have deliberately driven into another car."

It was believed the Mini had been driven by Mr Jones, who did not drink. He had taken out his two friends to Llanrwst near the crash and it was thought they were returning to the coast to see in the new year.



Death after stabbing: wreckage of the Morris Ital (top) in which the husband died after stabbing his wife, and (above) the Mini in which three men, including Arwyn Roberts (right), were killed

Wife killer dies in road crash

Continued from page 1

injuries to her family. Det Supt Peter Ackerley said the dead man had forced his way into the party attended by 16 people, including seven children. Mrs Reynolds was found dead in the rear garden and the policeman said he was not aware of any boyfriend which might have caused the husband to return.

Clovelly House is a two-story brown pebbledash guest house standing on a corner opposite the station at the foot of Llandudno's Great Orme tramway. Last night a Christmas tree was still lit in a window, but glass in the entrance hall had been shattered in a struggle. Police searched beneath parked cars for a weapon.

Neighbours said the couple had split up a few months ago and that Mr Reynolds went to stay with his mother in the town, taking his son David, aged 13, with him. There are two other children — Clare,

aged 11, and Caroline, aged seven. One neighbour said yesterday: "Last night there was a family get-together at Clovelly House and Denise's relatives joined her and the two girls. They had not seen each other for a few years because Vernon would not let them in the house."

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Two are remanded in acid attack case

A man and a youth accused of attacking a widow aged 74 with acid were remanded in custody when they appeared in court yesterday.

Anthony Langton, aged 22, and Jason Raby, aged 17, of the same address in Banbury, Oxfordshire, appeared at a specially convened New Year's day sitting of Banbury magistrates, charged with assaulting Joan Cooper, causing her grievous bodily harm.

They were also accused of aggravated burglary at Mrs Cooper's home in Oxford Road, Banbury, last Friday. Mr Langton and Mr Raby were represented separately and were remanded in custody until January 6. No application for bail was made.

Mrs Cooper was in a stable but poorly condition last night in South Warwickshire Hospital, Warwick.

Straw attacks school closures

More grammar schools have closed under Conservative governments than under Labour since 1970, the shadow education secretary said yesterday. Jack Straw quoted figures from parliamentary answers showing that 469 were closed under the Tories and 421 during Labour governments in that period. There are 148 grammar schools still open.

Mr Straw said: "These figures show a chasm between Tory rhetoric and practice. They dine out with unscrupulous attacks on the comprehensive system. But while ever ready to wound, they have been afraid to strike."

Tests attacked, page 3

Fire enquiry

Police were conducting an investigation last night after a man was found burned to death. The body was unrecognisable when discovered after a fire in a house at Banbury, Oxfordshire, early yesterday. Police confirmed that the fire was started deliberately. Neighbours said that a man was seen running from the house soon after the blaze started at 6am, shouting: "You deserved it, you bastard." The house — privately rented and split into bedsits — is used by the district council for homeless people.

Women killed

Three elderly women were found dead in their home in Greater Manchester yesterday, apparently killed by fumes from a heating system. The unnamed women and the body of their dog were discovered by a neighbour who broke into the house at Tyldesley, near Bolton. Heating engineers were called in to discover the source of the fumes. Post-mortem examinations were being carried out on the victims.

Armed combat

A gypsy prize fight ended in gang violence yesterday when two rival groups clashed at Swan Farm, near Gravesend, Kent. As the fight ended in confusion, one gang wielding shotguns opened fire then escaped in cars and vans before the police arrived. Inspector Mervyn Williams said: "Things got out of hand. We received initial reports of people being shot at."

Looking into it

Birmingham council has commissioned a £6,000 survey to find out what people think of holes in the road after a poll found most locals unhappy with the roads and pavements. Alan Blumenthal, a Tory councillor, said the survey was public money poured down the drain. The city engineers said: "It is essential that in-depth views of the public be obtained to provide detailed understanding of dissatisfaction."

Bridge death

A man fell 60 feet to his death from a footbridge near Kimberley, Nottinghamshire, yesterday and seven other people were hurt in a collision when they stopped their cars to try to help. The dead man, who had not been identified last night, was seen to jump from the bridge soon after 1am, police said. The injured were from two cars which were in collision with a third.

Golden rule

A coroner has ruled that coins worth £20,000 scattered round Portsmouth by a pensioner dubbed Goldfinger are not treasure trove. The gold and silver coins were handed in to the police after the man was seen throwing them into gardens in the North End region last autumn. Officers are renewing efforts to trace the owner.

MPs standing down this year

MP	Constituency	New candidate
Julian Amery	Brighton Pavilion	Derek Spencer
William Benyon	Milton Keynes SW	Barry Legg
Sir Peter Blaker	Blackpool South	Nick Hawkins
Robert Boscawen	Somerton and Frome	Mark Robinson
Sir Bernard Braine	Castle Point	Robert Spink
Sir Anthony Duck	Winchester	Gerald Malone
Sir William Clark	Colchester North	Bernard Jenkin
Sir Paul Dean	Croydon South	Richard Ottaway
Sir John Farr	Woodspring	Liam Fox
Sir Geoffrey Finsberg	Harborough	Edward Garnier
Sir Ian Gilmour	Hampstead and Highgate	Oliver Letwin
Sir Alan Glyn	Chesham and Amersham	Cheryl Gillan
Sir Philip Goodhart	Widmore and Maidenhead	Michael Trend
Sir Eidon Griffiths	Beckenham	Piers Merchant
Christopher Hawkins	Bury St Edmunds	Richard Spring
Sir Barney Hayhoe	High Peak	Charles Hendry
Sir Geoffrey Howe	Bromley and Isleworth	Nirj Deva
Sir Charles Irving	East Surrey	Paul Ainsworth
Michael Latham	Colchester	John Taylor
Nigel Lawson	Rutland and Melton	Alan Duncan
Sir Richard Lucas	Slaby	Andrew Robertson
Sir Ian Lloyd	Shoreham	Michael Stephen
Sir Robert McCrindle	Brentwood and Ongar	David Willetts
Sir Michael, McNeil-Wilson	Newbury	Eric Pickles
Sir Robin	Thurton	Judith Chaplin
Maxwell-Hyslop	Chwyd North West	Angela Browning
Sir Anthony Meyer	Bromsgrove	Rod Richards
Sir Hal Miller	Blackpool North	Roy Thomson
Norman Milsom	Croydon Central	Harold Blinston
John Moore	Devizes	Michael Beraford
Sir Charles Morrison	City of Chester	Michael Ancram
Sir Peter Morrison	Falmouth and Camborne	Gyles Brandreth
David Mudd	Hertsmere	Sebastian Coe
Cecil Parkinson	Eastleigh	James Clappison
Sir David Price	DeWyne	Stephen Milligan
Keith Rafter	Aylesbury	Michael Whitby
Sir Timothy Raison	Cambridge	David Lidington
Sir Robert	Cirencester and Tewkesbury	Mark Bishop
Rhodes-James	Harwich	Geoffrey Clifton-Brown
Nicholas Ridley	Scarborough	Iain Sprouat
Sir Julian Ridsdale	Orpington	Angela Knight
Peter Rost	Halesowen and Stourbridge	John Hosam
Sir Michael Shaw	Chingford	Warren Hawkey
Ivor Stanbrook	Worcester	Iain Duncan-Smith
Sir John Stokes	Colchester S and Malden	Hartley Booth
Norman Tebbit	Westbury	Peter Luff
Margaret Thatcher	Hastings and Rye	John Whittingdale
Peter Walker	Elkannara Port and Neaton	David Faber
John Wakeham	Ayr	Jacqui Lait
Sir Dennis Walters		Andrew Pearce
Kenneth Warren		Phil Galle
Mike Woodcock		
George Younger		

Sir Geoffrey: his last days in the Commons

quitting is David Lambie (Cunningham South), a former chairman of the Scottish Labour party.

One of the best-loved Commons characters, the ex-minister Labour whip, natty-dresser and down-to-basics questioner of the prime minister, Frank Haynes, only a decade in Parliament, will not fight Ashfield again. Peter Archer, a lawyer who was solicitor general from 1974-79, will not contest Warley West.

But perhaps the most regretted of all will be Jack Ashley, Stoke-on-Trent South. Now 67, he lost his hearing in 1968, two years after his election. He planned to give up his seat. Friends persuaded him to stay and he has proved the most tenacious and effective of campaigners for the disabled.

For the Liberal Democrats, the departure of Sir Cyril Smith from Rochdale will in every way leave a large gap.

THE BLUE LAMP

THE traditional blue police lamp will continue to be suspended outside London police stations as it has since Victorian days, and modern versions will be put up outside new stations by Scotland Yard.

The decision to keep the lamp and to make more use of it is part of a programme to smarten up the appearance of London's stations which have been criticised for being dirty and dishevelled. Early next year the Yard is to begin a £1.8 million redecoration blitz on its worst stations.

The origin of the blue lamp is not known but the idea of a special light to identify the police is widely used round the world. One police historian has traced the lamps back to the early 19th century when Westminster city council decided that all police houses in its area should display lamps to distinguish them from other premises. When gas lamps were introduced blue glass was placed round the lamp

EC urged to open door to Russia

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

THE prospect of Russia joining the European Community was raised yesterday by the prime minister as he outlined his aims for the British presidency of the Community in the second half of the year.

John Major also disclosed that he had urged the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to admit the biggest of the former Soviet republics to full membership.

Before the break-up of the Soviet Union, Mr Major used his chairmanship of the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries to offer associate membership of the international financial institutions to the troubled superpower.

In an interview for BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, yesterday, he said he wanted Russia's shattered economy to have full access to the IMF and the World Bank's financial expertise and soft loans. A key factor in Mr

Major's backing for Russian membership is his belief that under Boris Yeltsin the country is taking the difficult but necessary steps towards a market economy.

Mr Major emphasised the importance of opening up the EC to the newly independent states of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

"The Community has to widen its imagination. The one thing that would be fatal for it... would be if it were to become a sort of superannuated rich man's club in the West. I wish to see the opening of the Community, first to the Efta [European Free Trade Association] states to the north — Sweden, Norway, Finland, Austria — and then to the Eastern states, the new democracies, and as far east as Russia itself."

The prime minister said that Russian membership of the EC would "banish utterly" the threat of nuclear war.

NHS gave Major parents security

By Our Political Correspondent

THE prime minister yesterday underlined his personal commitment to state-funded medical care by explaining how the NHS had helped his parents in the last years of their lives.

John Major said that his father, Tom, and mother, Gwen, suffered from ill health in their declining years after the family, which had fallen on hard times, had moved in the mid-Fifties from leafy Worcester Park in south London to Coldharbour Lane in Brixton, south London.

"They could not possibly have had the treatment they had paid for privately, paid for by insurance, in any other way than through the NHS," Mr Major said on BBC radio. "I know the security of mind that that gave them and that it gave the rest of the family. I understand that. And I know that today in different parts of the country, every corner of the country,

there are other people in the same circumstances.

"This is one of the few countries where you can be guaranteed good and prompt health treatment if you are seriously ill. Nothing I would do now or in the future would damage that. I would want other people to have the same peace of mind in the future that my parents had."

Mr Major died in 1962 aged 82 when his youngest son was almost 19. He was registered blind and suffered from heart trouble. Looking back on his boyhood, the prime minister has recalled at the age of four or five walking with his father to stop him tripping in the street.

Gwen Major, who moved to Croydon after her husband's death, died in 1970, aged 65. She had emphysema and spent most of her last years in hospital.

Relaxed Major, page 1

Future burns bright for the blue lamp

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

THE traditional blue police lamp will continue to be suspended outside London police stations as it has since Victorian days, and modern versions will be put up outside new stations by Scotland Yard.

The decision to keep the lamp and to make more use of it is part of a programme to smarten up the appearance of London's stations which have been criticised for being dirty and dishevelled. Early next year the Yard is to begin a £1.8 million redecoration blitz on its worst stations.

The origin of the blue lamp is not known but the idea of a special light to identify the police is widely used round the world. One police historian has traced the lamps back to the early 19th century when Westminster city council decided that all police houses in its area should display lamps to distinguish them from other premises. When gas lamps were introduced blue glass was placed round the lamp

so that the public could see the station. Blue was chosen presumably because it matched the colour of a policeman's uniform.

Not everyone liked the lamps. When Queen Victoria visited the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden she objected to the lamp shining opposite on Bow Street police station and it was taken down.

In the 1950s the legendary career of PC Dixon of Dock Green was launched in a film appropriately called

The Blue Lamp, and for many years afterwards the views and tips of the venerable constable, played by Jack Warner, on such criminal subjects as unlit bicycle lights, were passed on to television viewers from beneath the blue lamp at Dock Green police station.

Now the lamp is to stay but the police are moving away from other traditional decorations or advertisements. A rolling programme to improve the police image includes greater use of the

new Metropolitan police logo and the refurbishment of the public counters of London stations which will mean the end of the traditional decoration of fly-blown warnings about Colorado beetles and posters illustrating Britain's most popular breeds of dog.

The police will repaint 180 police stations in grey and blue during two weeks in February. Civilian staff manning the counters will be given a newly designed uniform.

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Jack Warner, and the Dixon of Dock Green cast, under the blue lamp outside their station

Bargain hunters bring welcome relief to big stores

EYES aglow, and with a determined step, the hunters closed in for the kill. Making sure that their weapons — chequebooks, credit cards and spacious bags — were intact, they brooked no opposition and no obstacle was too bulky to get round or through.

The first day of the January sales at Harrods was no place for the very old, the very young or the infirm. Within hours of the doors opening, Harrods was claiming that business was booming. Even before it started, spokesmen predicted that £16,666 would be spent every minute. They could not explain how they arrived at such a prediction.

Putting the press relations hype to one side, it does appear that the big London stores have something to celebrate with this year's sales. A Liberty spokeswoman said: "We have done much better than we had expected." Even so, with an upturn in retail business not forecast until spring at the earliest, the stores may well have a difficult winter ahead of them.

Jamie Dettmer reports on the opening of the Harrods sale and retailers' hopes for a recovery in the new year

Last year, despite a reasonable January sales performance, Harrods had to make big staff cuts to cope with the slump.

The Harrods sale was launched by the singer Diana Ross, who arrived in a horse-drawn landau before joining Mohammed Al-Fayed, Harrods chairman, in the traditional opening countdown. Miss Ross was paid nothing for opening the sale. Instead, Harrods donated £50,000 in her name to a scanner appeal at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children.

Miss Ross had clearly been informed of the dangerous nature of her mission. She came well prepared with her own burly minders. "Lovely

to see you," she said with great feeling to nobody in particular. "Go on, Diana," cried the press photographers. "Cor, lovely," said one as she swung her hips. The thousands of bargain-hunters soon lost interest as the doors swung open.

At the front of the huge queue, which almost stretched the full circle of the building, was Paul Donlon, aged 19, a business student from Sheffield, who wanted to buy cutlery for his parents. "It might seem a little odd coming all the way from Sheffield to buy cutlery, but Harrods is the sale to come to," he said. "We were up at Trafalgar Square last night and we came here at 3.45 in the morning. I was very surprised to find myself first in the queue. The cutlery I am going for is reduced from £562 to £299."

Patrick Dolan, aged 26, of London, bought a 24in television reduced from £619 to £199. "I came yesterday just to have a look around and I saw this television," he said. "I came straight from work this morning and arrived at 8am."

China, glass and clothes were the big attractions in the sale. Among the bargains were a women's diamond bracelet watch, down from £111,000 to £55,500, and a sterling silver centrepiece, reduced from £9,995 to £5,995.

Harrods spokesmen insisted that it was just coincidence that the store started its sale on a new year's day, the first time in its 143-year history that it had opened on the first day of the year. They denied that the slump had had anything to do with it.

"It's the best looking January sale crowd for at least two years, although admittedly it was raining on those occasions," Peter Willasey of Harrods said. "All the indications are very good. Let's hope people are waving goodbye to the recession." Not to be outdone, Michael Cole, another spokesman, declared that the queue was the biggest for five years.

But the big question for retailers is whether the sales can make up for the poor run-up to Christmas.

At Selfridges, which started its January sale on December 27, trade has been brisk. "The figures are comparable, and in some cases better, than last year," Paul Lambert, personnel director, said. "We have done particularly well in china, crockery, electronic goods and menswear."

A spokeswoman at Liberty said that, so far, the returns on their sale were 20 per cent up on last year.

Diary, page 12



Pot of gold: a shopper examining a porcelain teapot in Harrods yesterday

Hunters chase after popularity

By RONALD FAIR

FOX hunters in the Lake District are seeking to attract more support for their tradition in the face of opposition from campaigners against blood sports. "We want to see more people supporting the hunt and realising that the hounds perform an essential service in these rural communities," a follower in steam boots and dandruff said as the Blencathra pack sought Carrock Fell for a season. "This hunt has even produced a video explaining exactly what goes on."

Barry Todhunter, the huntsman, cracked a whip that echoed like a pistol shot against the cliffs. The noise was designed to cause a fox to put its head over the parapet. One did, and the hounds were on to it immediately. The fox lasted three-quarters of a mile before being caught and killed.

Another supporter said: "These are not pushy hunts. Most of the folk here are country people who enjoy the sight of the hounds streaming across the hillsides and who

know the damage some foxes can do."

Mr Todhunter agreed that not all foxes were dangerous to livestock, but said that the ones who were caused havoc. "A barren vixen can go crashing and out a ewe through a field of lambs. This is the most natural way of keeping the fox numbers down — animal against animal."

The Cumbrian fell packs together dispatch about 500 foxes from September to May. The hounds then become available to farmers troubled by foxes. At least 30 requests for help may be expected every hunting time.

The hunt has been the target of protests by hunt saboteurs and an attempt was made to dig up John Peel's bones from Caldbeck churchyard.

Rain swept across Carrock Fell, dampening the huntsman's bright red jacket and the enthusiasm of followers. The Blencathra called it a day, but not before the fox population had been reduced by four.



Pack leader: original Lakes huntsman John Peel

Grouse shoots bring in £10m

By JOHN YOUNG

GROUSE shooting contributes more than £10 million to the Scottish economy and generates over 2,300 jobs, a report from Strathclyde University suggests.

Although grouse moors are rarely profitable to their owners, the indirect impact of shooting forms an important part of the Scottish rural economy, the report commissioned by the Game Conservancy Council concludes. Ninety per cent of grouse shooters come from outside Scotland and, in addition to direct expenditure on shooting, they also spend money on equipment, accommodation, food, drink and travel.

Improving the heather for grouse has important benefits for plant and animal life, the report says. This concurs with recent RSPB research which noted that grouse

shooting was the only significant land use which maintained the habitats of some of the more sensitive birds.

Among the activities of conservation importance were heather burning, predator control, the limitation of cattle and deer numbers, bracken control, fencing to exclude sheep and controlled public access. However, the numbers of grouse were depressed by increasing numbers of predators, particularly raptors protected by law.

The report estimates that there are 486 grouse moors in Scotland, averaging 9,500 acres inside. In 1989, 22,809 days' shooting were let, resulting in a bag of 266,000 birds. However, three quarters of the moors are run at a loss and the report recommends more positive incentives.

Men nurses sexually harassed by patients

MALE nurses increasingly face sexual harassment, the Royal College of Nursing has said. Women patients whose advances were spurned could also seek revenge by making complaints against the men.

Susan Russell, of the college, said: "This can lead to disciplinary action. In one case, the complaint was eventually found to be groundless but by then the nurse had gone through a lot of trauma and his reputation was put in doubt."

Mrs Russell, who is based in Newcastle upon Tyne, was commenting on a recent report showing that 60 per cent of women nurses at a hospital in the southwest of England were victims of harassment.

"This is a long-standing problem due to a popular image of nurses being women of the world so it doesn't matter if one pinches their bottoms now and again," she said. "However, male nurses are equally unfairly stereo-

typed. They are liable to be thought of as gays or given a 'bit of a lad' image and there are young female patients who make advances to them. "If a male nurse is sexually harassed and doesn't like it the 'hell hath no fury like a woman spurned' response is possible and he can find himself the subject of allegations."

Mrs Russell said she was angry that nurses of both sexes were harassed as it infringed their liberty and damaged their professional standing. "Every health authority should adopt a policy against sexual harassment and have people to whom staff can take complaints and know they will be treated sensitively."

At Night nurses at the Queen's medical centre in Nottingham are taking part in a project to reduce hospital crime by telephoning information to a security headquarters on the complex.

US airmen fly back to wartime haunts

By JOHN SHAW

HUNDREDS of former American servicemen are preparing to return to their old bases in East Anglia this year to mark the 50th anniversary of American entry into the second world war.

Thousands of men and aircraft poured into the region to carry out daylight bombing raids over occupied Europe. Casualties were heavy and the men had a reputation for living it up off duty, often to the music of Glenn Miller's orchestra.

Their return is being coordinated by the East Anglia Tourist Board, which has been in contact with ex-servicemen's associations in the United States. Hotels in Norwich have already attracted nearly £500,000 in business, and "half-a-million bed nights" have been booked at the 250-bed Harlequin Hotel, at Stansted airport, Essex, where staff will dress in war-

time American uniforms when the main body of servicemen arrives in April, May and June. Stansted began as an American base and the hotel will adapt its menus, a spokesman said, "to give them a taste of what they knew during the war."

More than 170 events have been arranged throughout the region. There will be dances and parties and an air show at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, Cambridgeshire, featuring an airworthy B17 bomber and a display devoted to the wartime USAF.

Many servicemen will return to the pubs and villages where they drank and met the locals, and will visit the American military cemetery at Madingley, near Cambridge and Ely Cathedral, the landmark which symbolised for them a safe homecoming after another raid.

David Woodhead, director of Isis, said that this would be the first time that it had been involved in the exhibition, to run from January 7-10. It would stage similar displays in Hong Kong, in February, and in Basle, in May.

British boarding schools were seeking to build on their long tradition of educating pupils from overseas, Mr Woodhead said. About 3 per cent of boarders were the children of foreign nationals and he hoped the proportion would increase.

The Hong Kong exhibition, expected to draw more than 60,000 visitors from throughout south-east Asia, was the most important, Mr Woodhead said. Experience last year in Taiwan and Malaysia had shown that there was a lot of interest in British education, although there was fierce competition from schools in the United States, Canada and Australia.

Record forecast looks a long shot

BY THE year 2000, the world record holder in the marathon may be a woman, according to two American scientists who have studied the records in running events and concluded that men are losing their lead.

By the middle of next century, men can expect to be outpaced in all events from the 200 metres to the marathon if trends continue, the scientists say.

The conclusion was yesterday received sceptically by athletics experts, including a former medical adviser to the British team, Dr Peter Sperry. "I don't believe it," he said.

Even the two scientists making the claim, Bryan Whipp and Susan Ward, of the School of Medicine at the University of California, concede that, at first sight, it appears improbable. None of the women record holders in any of the events can meet the men's qualifying standard for the 1992 Olympic games. However, the gap is closing, they say.

The scientists have calculated the average speed for men and women over a range of distances for as far back as records are reliable. The results, published today in *Nature*, show a linear increase in speeds for both sexes in all events studied. Women's speeds, however, are improving markedly faster than men's.

"Despite the pitfalls, we could not resist extrapolating these record progressions into the future," the scientists say. They argue that the rapid improvement of women, if sustained, will take them past men at most distances by the middle of next century.

The earliest test of the theory will come in the marathon, where the improvement in women's speeds has

Predictions from American scientists that women will overhaul men in most running events by the middle of the next century are proving a non-starter among sceptical athletes, Nigel Hawkes reports

been especially rapid. The figures suggest that women should be running faster marathons than men by 1998. By then, the world record should be two hours, one minute, 59 seconds.

The odd feature of the figures is the way in which both men's and women's speeds have increased consistently and linearly since reliable records began — male records at the end of last century, and women's in the 1920s. Different training regimes, improving tracks and greater physiological knowledge are not

discernible in the graphs, which follow virtually identical slopes for all events.

The only differences are that women's speeds are increasing twice as fast as men's, and that marathon speeds for both sexes are improving more rapidly than other events' speeds. The scientists cannot explain this.

Dr Sperry believes that it is wrong to project the lines forward. "If you extrapolate far enough, you run out of common sense," he said. Dr Sperry sees basic physiological differences between

men and women, in particular production of the sex hormone testosterone by men, as creating a permanent gap in potential.

"Wherever there is an element of strength involved, men will win," Dr Sperry said. "Of course, you will always get muscular women who can beat rather weedy men... but it seems impossible to me that even the toughest women will ever beat the toughest men."

Women's best chances were in events where endurance was more important than strength, and where their greater proportion of body fat was an advantage, such as Channel swimming.

Liz McColgan, the 10,000 metres world champion, said: "Unfortunately, there is no way any woman will ever beat the best man in any event because we simply do not have the physique."

"I suspect the figures don't take full account of the proportionally larger number of medium-standard men runners, and so give a distorted picture of the relative improvements."

In a few highly specialised running events, however, women were already breathing down the necks of male counterparts, Mrs McColgan said. "When it comes to ultra distances of up to 100 miles, we could well close the gap because a woman's body is better suited to going on and on because it has more fat," she said.

Sally Gunnell, silver medalist at this year's world championships in the 400 metres hurdles, said she would welcome a woman surpassing men in that event, but thought the day might be some way off. "The gap is narrowing all the time," she said.

Leading article, page 13



Gunnell: says speed gap is narrowing



McColgan: thinks the figures distort picture

'Flawed' tests will waste teaching time, say heads

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

TESTS due to be sat by seven-year-olds this spring are so flawed that they will give false results as well as wasting teaching time, head teachers say.

The National Association of Head Teachers has written to Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, to ask for further changes in the national curriculum tests, after two previous government attempts to make them manageable and realistic.

"We are anxious that, despite the lessons of the last two years, we may be embarking yet again on an assessment process which is technically flawed, is unrealistic in classroom terms and will provide results largely unsupported by any process of standardisation and validation," the association says. It fears that "another cohort of children will lose an unnecessary amount of valuable learning time at a crucial stage in their schooling."

Announcing details of the tests in mathematics, English and science last month, Mr Clarke said that they would be more manageable for teachers and could be taken by whole classes at the same time. He estimated that they should take no more than 30 hours of teaching time.

The association, however, claims that whole-class tests are possible only in written English and that the amount of time suggested by Mr Clarke is unrealistic as it does not take into account the

reading test. Heads estimate that this will take an average of 30 minutes for each child, leaving only 15 hours for the remainder of the test. Alternatively, the total time required would rise to 45 hours for a class of 30 pupils. Heads also say that Mr Clarke has failed to take into account the amount of time for preparation, marking and recording.

Where group testing is possible, the association says, some children will inevitably be asked to do tests that are beyond them, while others will be wasting time on tests that are too easy. In a general criticism of the tests, the association says that some of the wording is ambiguous and, in science, too complicated.

Schools to seek Gulf boarders

By JOHN YOUNG

THE virtues of a British public school education are to be advertised to an expected 40,000 Middle East visitors to the fourth annual Gulf Education and Training Exhibition in Dubai next week.

The display is being coordinated by the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis) as part of an attempt to attract more overseas pupils to compensate for falling demand for boarding at home. Some 200 schools will be represented, including Rugby, Haileybury, Roedean and Mill Hill. Between 1984 and 1990, there was an 8 per cent increase in pupils at fee-paying schools but boarders fell by nearly 10 per cent.

David Woodhead, director of Isis, said that this would be the first time that it had been involved in the exhibition, to run from January 7-10. It would stage similar displays in Hong Kong, in February, and in Basle, in May.

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Barry Zwiirn

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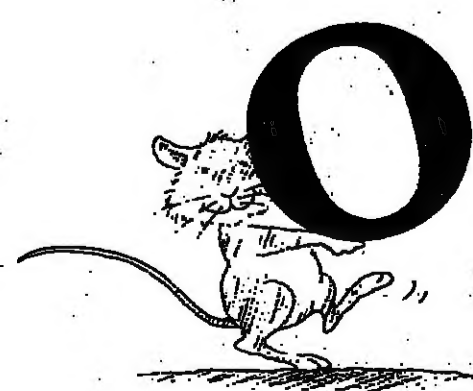
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East yearns for jams tomorrow

EUROPE is heading for a second era of motorisation, environmental destruction and increased vehicle emissions as Eastern European governments embark on ambitious motorway construction schemes.

The West may worry about too much traffic, but Eastern Europe equates congestion with progress.
Michael Dynes writes

By linking up with the extensive western European motorway network, the Eastern European countries are hoping to stimulate trade and ease the transition from centrally planned to market economies.

This month, the Hungarian government will invite final bids from international construction companies to build and operate a series of motorway toll roads, the first of which would link Budapest with the west European motorway system via Austria. Similar toll road proposals are also being prepared in Poland and Czechoslovakia.

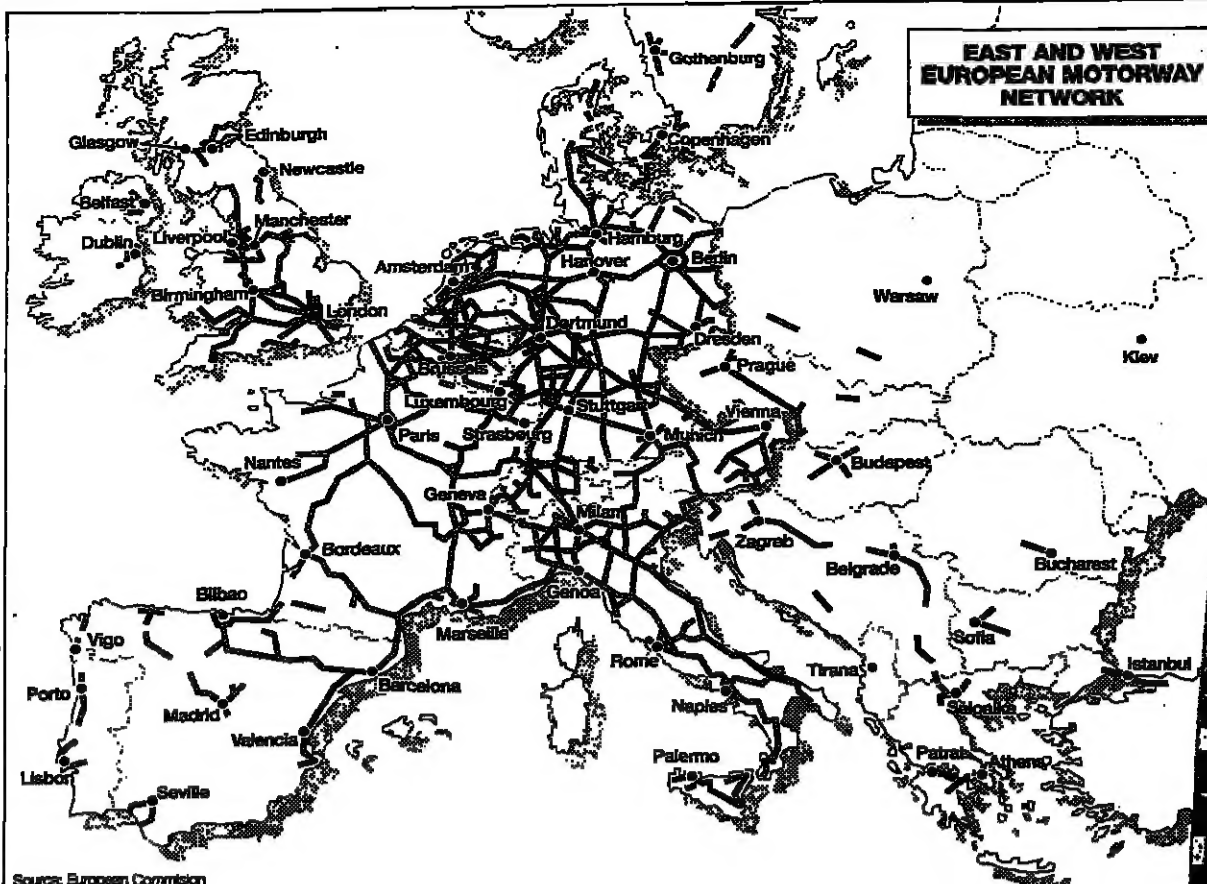
But the toll road strategy has provoked sharp criticism from some Western transport analysts, who predict that the rush to build new motorways in the east will lead to the gradual decline of public transport, increased environmental damage and more atmospheric pollution.

Jonathan Bray, a prominent critic of Western European road-based transport policies, says that the decision to abandon urban tram sys-

tems after the second world war lies at the heart of Britain's transport difficulties. Mr Bray believes that the demise of the tram was the first decisive move away from the promotion of public transport, which was followed by the development of the motorway network, the Beeching rail cuts and the growth of private car ownership.

In a pamphlet warning of the dangers of emulating Western road-based transport policies, Mr Bray said: "The parallels between post-war Britain and post-Stalinist Eastern Europe with regard to light transit are striking." Because of the pressure to find a quick fix, Eastern Europe was opting for a road building strategy at the very moment when Western Europe had become conscious of the high social and environmental costs of private car ownership.

Such criticisms have provoked an equally sharp rebuke from Eastern European transport officials. In an in-



Joining the queue: Eastern Europe hopes that linking up with the West's motorway system will put its fledgling market economies on the road to revival

terview with *The Times*, András Timar, the former director of the Hungarian transport research institute, accused critics of naively applying Western solutions to Eastern problems.

Environmental policies which were winning political support in the western half of the continent, with its already extensive motorway network, were seen as tantamount to political suicide in the eastern half, where the motorway in-

frastructure was virtually non-existent, Dr Timar said. Eastern Europe's new political elites are struggling with the dilemma of how to satisfy material aspirations without the necessary resources. Dr Timar said that new motorways were the quickest and most effective way of attracting the foreign investment needed to boost economic growth, increase disposable incomes and satisfy the demand for consumer durables.

According to Alastair Dick, a Western transport consultant who has been advising the Hungarian government on how to attract the foreign capital needed to fund the motorway programme, investment aimed at modernising Eastern Europe's extensive but antiquated rail network would not show results as quickly as investment in new motorways. Given the mounting domestic pressures on the new political elites,

rapid results are what matter. Many Western observers fear that there is more than a grain of truth in Mr Bray's predictions. For Eastern Europeans, however, such predictions miss the point. People there aspire to the kind of traffic congestion which has become a feature of Western society. Indeed, their political leaders look forward to the day when traffic congestion is their biggest headache.



Newcomer is 200m years old

AUSTRALIAN scientists have discovered a rare group of tiny shrimp-like crustaceans, previously unknown in the Southern Hemisphere, in a remote cave in the north-west of the continent.

The animal, which belongs to the archaic group therapsid, is thought to have developed more than 200 million years ago. Gary Poore, of the Museum of Victoria, said yesterday.

The shrimp-like animal, only one tenth of an inch long, would be only one of 16 known species of therapsid.

They are of considerable interest because their distribution is so scattered, according to Bill Humphreys of the Western Australia Museum in Perth, who found the animal.

The closest relative to the new species has been found in the Canary Islands off the African coast and in the Caribbean region, Dr Poore said.

The animal, which lives on the mud at the bottom of caves, was collected by Dr Humphreys from fresh water in a cave on the semi-arid North West Cape peninsula in Western Australia.

The therapsid is thought to have dispersed by hitching a ride on the continental plates as they drifted around the world after the breakup of the ancient supercontinent of Pangaea and then Gondwana.

The animal is unusual in that its eggs are deposited in a brood pouch on the back of the mother where they develop until they are large enough for independent life.

Taiwan to deport prostitutes

Taipei: Police launched a six-month purge on foreign prostitutes yesterday, especially those from Southeast Asia, Central and South America and South Africa.

Foreign prostitutes would be detained, fined and deported, and those providing places for them or operating such illegal trade would also be punished, the national police administration said. Local police chiefs will also be punished if foreign prostitutes are found operating in their area. (AFP)

Paid to relax

Philadelphia: Without lifting a finger, 18 men are providing NASA with data on muscle metabolism, all for \$100 (\$53) a day, complete bed rest and a liquid diet. The study hopes to determine whether supplements of amino acids can slow muscle loss. (AP)

Chewing freely

Singapore: Singaporeans chewing gum will not be prosecuted except where food consumption is prohibited, an environment ministry official said. Singapore has banned the import and sale of chewing gum. (AFP)

Population rise

Washington: The population of the United States grew by 2.7 million to 253.6 million last year, the US census bureau said. The bureau forecast four million births, 2.1 million deaths and 725,000 immigrants this year. (AFP)

Geordies vote Gazza big bore

Paul Gascoigne has been voted the country's biggest bore by BBC Radio Newcastle listeners because they are tired of his behaviour off the pitch.

The footballer, who is 24, was chosen as the year's biggest irritant in preference to Cilla Black and Jeremy Beadle. Last year the same audience voted him man of the year.



Joseph Ciccipio, the hostage freed last month, dreamed during his years in Lebanon of introducing his Lebanese wife Elham to the United States with the spectacular Rose Parade on New Year's day. Yesterday, at Pasadena's 103rd tournament of roses, he did so.

John O'Connor, Roman Catholic Cardinal of New York, arrived in Beirut yesterday to assess Lebanon's aid requirements. The cardinal, who is on his fourth trip to Lebanon, is expected to meet President Elias Hrawi, government officials and senior Christian clergymen.

Ray Charles, the blind American singer, once tried to drive his car, his son says. "My father had a '63 Corvette, gorgeous car," Ray Charles Jr said on television. "He was at an intersection and he told the valet, 'I want to drive my car home.' We're all in the house, right, and we hear this bang! My father pulls out in the intersection and just totals out the Corvette."

Mel Gibson, the American actor who played Hamlet in the 1991 film version and commended the study of Shakespeare in a schools video, will receive the Will Award in April from the Shakespeare Theater for furthering classical drama.

Charles Haughey has rejected a plan for push-button voting in the Dail. The Irish prime minister is said to believe that the present Westminster-style method of walking through lobbies provides invaluable contact between party chiefs and backbenchers.

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Children seek shelter from Yugoslavia's demented war

WHEN jets roar over the refugee camp of Mohacs in Hungary, Bosnian runs inside and covers his ears with a pillow. In Osijek, his home in Croatia, he was never bomb-



ed from the air, but instinct tells him air power is trouble. After a while a Red Cross worker tells him it is safe to come out: they were friendly Hungarian planes, not Yugoslav army fighters. Reassured, Bosnian goes outdoors to play Croatian heroes against Serbian Chetniks.

Psychiatrists say that it will be some time before the full mental damage to thousands of Yugoslav children can be assessed. They sleep, sometimes 16 to a room, in the old worker militia barracks at Mohacs, some seven miles north of the Yugoslav border. Maya, aged 12, says nobody sleeps much: "Somebody is always having a nightmare."

Europe's nightmare is this: 550,000 people forced to leave their homes in the past six months. The United Nations says it is Europe's biggest forced population movement since the second world war.

Apart from Austria, which has taken more than 10,000 refugees, and Hungary, which is taking 12,000 a month, few people seem to be noticing. For most European

The flight of Croats is Europe's biggest exodus since the last war, Roger Boyes writes from Mohacs, southern Hungary

Community leaders, the war is a military or diplomatic problem; the human misery has slipped out of view.

At the Nagayad camp, near Lake Balaton, and the seven reception centres strung along the Hungarian-Yugoslav border, the most visible charities are the Red Cross, Caritas and Médecins du Monde. Young French doctors have been distributing medicines. Most of the adult refugees want tranquillisers.

The Yugoslavs are not as badly off as some refugees. All have a temporary roof, many as guests of families. A Cro-

atian school is starting up in the main camp, and the daily allowance from the Hungarian government, led by József Antall, the prime minister, is generous.

But the main reason for the European neglect is that a large part of this moving population is within Yugoslavia itself. Some 200,000 of the refugees have moved elsewhere within Croatia. And 200,000 Serbs have fled from Croatia to Bosnia or Serbia. Keeping track of such huge shifts is difficult. Some Croatian schoolchildren were, for example, evacuated from Osijek in September to Split on

the Adriatic coast which was then bombed by the Yugoslav army. They ended up in Zagreb, which may also become a target. But the new logic of this war dictates that moving has become more dangerous than staying put and so the children remain.

Many others have fled across the borders. On a map it looks simple to cross from the war zone of Slavonia to peaceful Hungary. But, as the refugees in Mohacs camp report, the border crossing of Uđvar has long since passed from Croatian into Yugoslav army hands. The passage has to be made across country which, despite army assurances to the contrary, has been mined.

Nobody stops long at Mohacs. The refugees are shuffled on to make room for

others. In the beginning, Croats and ethnic Hungarians drove over the frontier in cars. Now they come on foot, without luggage or warm clothing. A woman aged 34 from near Valpovo said: "I was milking the cows, and the shooting started again so I went indoors and dressed the children, and left my home."

Those who fled from the Baranya region, the corn-belt of northeast Croatia, have no chance of recovering their homes. At the end of September, the "regional parliament" of the now Serbian-controlled area declared that any home or farmstead not reclaimed in 30 days would be confiscated. The homes will be handed over to Serbian settlers and so the mixed Serbo-Croatian region will become solely Serbian. That,

after all, is the point of the war. About two-thirds of the 20,000 Croats of the Baranya region have fled.

The ethnic Hungarians who cross the border to Szeged, and who are promptly settled with call families, tell stories from their part of the front. Waiting to sign up at the Szeged police station, a weather-beaten farmer told of a cousin pulled out of bed to be press-ganged into the federal army: "He was in the frontline, near Vukovar, and was wounded within a week. When his mother visited him he said he had seen the body of a Hungarian friend — shot while fighting for the Croats." Hungarians killing Hungarians in a foreign country — it is a demented war.



Antall: his government provides generous help

Vance mission, page 1

Ukraine matches Yeltsin price rises

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

FOR the three-quarters of the population of the former Soviet Union who live in Russia and Ukraine, today is day zero. They will wake up this morning to a brave new world in which seven decades of rigid economic centralisation and heavy state subsidies have been declared a "mistake" and everything costs what it costs, not what the state decrees it should.

When the shops open today bread and milk will cost up to four times what they cost on Tuesday, butter and cooking oil up to five times as much, train and air tickets will have increased in cost several times over, and even the vodka to bring oblivion will cost more than 20 roubles a bottle, almost two days' average wage last year.

These multiple price rises for "staples" are only a fragment of the picture. Almost all other retail prices and many wholesale prices as well — including prices for agricultural produce — will be allowed to float free.

No one has ventured any credible prediction of what will happen. Many prices could shoot up 10 or 20 times initially, leaving a majority living off the limited diet of "staples" whose price will be regulated, or reduced, to patronising as yet non-existent soup kitchens.

January 2 has been awaited with fear on both sides of the political fence. Russian leaders, starting with President Yeltsin, insist there is no alternative if the country's economic ills are to be cured and have appealed to people not to panic. The architect of the reforms, Yegor Gaidar, assured reporters there would be no civil unrest, despite attempts by pressure groups to organise street protests. The Russian government is

believed to have contingency plans, however, just in case their predictions of calm prove wrong.

The population at large fear the uncertainty above all else. They have experienced sharp overnight price rises before, but there has never before been the prospect of completely open-ended increases. The Russian government has pledged hefty increases in pensions, grants and public sector salaries. Industry and agriculture, however, are being left mostly to look after themselves.

Russia planned its price reforms three months ago, originally naming December 16



Gaidar: says there will be no civil unrest

"day zero". When the commonwealth was founded, Mr Yeltsin agreed to delay for two weeks to give neighbouring republics a chance to catch up. In spite of pressure from Ukraine, to delay further, however, he stood firm and Ukraine has been forced to liberalise prices today, too. Belarus follows next week. Ukraine was caught between two evils. If it held back prices, Russians would come across the republic border to their thousands to plunder Ukraine's cheaper and more

plentiful food stocks. If it released prices before it was ready — as it has now decided to do — the authorities must brace themselves for the impact on a population which has not been prepared psychologically and for the practical problems of replicating in a hurry.

But with new 100, 200 and eventually 1,000 rouble notes being printed, any difficulty should be only temporary. Russia's team of young economic reformers calculates that once prices are freed, they will initially soar and then settle down to a level which reflects supply and demand. An unstated hope is that the mass of goods which currently goes through the state sector into the black market will start to be traded through legitimate channels.

Opposition to the changes is fierce, however. Aleksandr Rutskoi, Mr Yeltsin's vice-president, speaks for many when he says that the price liberalisation has not been properly thought out, that it will divide rich from poor to a degree that will be politically unacceptable, and — most crucially — that it will not bring goods into the shops. Mr Rutskoi's fears are supported by several economists who argue that there is no point in liberalising prices until privatisation has supplied the basis for higher productivity and competition.

On new year's eve, evidence could be found on the streets to support both hypotheses. Prices of meat and vegetables in the peasants' markets, where supposedly free prices are actually controlled by black marketeers, reached unprecedented levels, with a chicken fetching 250 roubles, or three weeks' wages.

Ukraine and IMF, page 28

THE COST OF STAPLES IN THE FORMER USSR			
The first figure is the subsidised state price for each item (in roubles); the second figure is the private market price (in roubles); the third figure is the number of hours an average worker must work to purchase that item at the private market rate (based on about 175 hours of work a month). The average worker earns 350 roubles a month, equivalent to about £4.37 at the floating exchange rate.			
Smoked sausage	35.5 per lb	68.2 per lb	34 hours
Chicken	15.5 per lb	36.4 per lb	18 hours
Butter	4.5 per lb	8.5 per lb	27 hours
Macaroni	1.1 per lb	5.1 per lb	14 hours
White bread	0.32 per lb	not for sale	
Sugar	1.1 per lb	not for sale	
Fresh fish (carp)	5.5 per lb	30 per lb	15 hours
Milk	0.55 per litre	8	4 hours
Java cigarettes	0.55 per pack (20)	8	4 hours
Women's dress shoes	420 per pair	1,500	750 hours
Men's dress shoes	250 per pair	1,000	500 hours
Child's dress shoes	15 per pair	300	150 hours
Pantyhose	15 per pair	120	60 hours
Women's skirt	200	1,500	750 hours
Petrol	0.40 per litre	3 per litre	14 hours

EC flag raised in Lisbon

FROM REUTERS IN LISBON

PORTUGAL took over the European Community presidency for the first time yesterday and said the EC represented a beacon of stability and progress in a turbulent world.

President Soares and António Cavaco Silva, the prime minister, watched the Community's flag hoisted at the new Belem Cultural Centre, where most EC meetings will be held during Portugal's six months in office.

Senhor Soares said earlier in his New Year message to the nation that the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe had created a "tremendously complex" situation and the Yugoslav conflict had brought war to Europe for the first time in 46 years.

TV puppets do their bit for stability

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

PRESIDENTS may come and go, the state may vanish from the map, but one comforting feature of life goes on: some time between 8 and 9pm a blue sky covered with stars appears on television screens and a tinkling tune whisks viewers into the magic and innocent world of Khrushcha the pig, Stepashka the rabbit, and Filya the dog.

Good Night, Children has been on the air for 27 years, a product, like Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, of Khrushchev's cultural thaw. The puppets are battered. Khrushcha (pigs say "khrush" in Russian) has a chipped ear. But the grip of his little pink trotters, in the hands of actress Natalya Derzhavina, is as firm as ever.

Khrushcha is the darling of the programme. He has a

penchant for practical jokes and mild disobedience. His voice has the serious, piping tone of Russian children, and he gets several hundred phone calls every day. Filya, a floppy-eared shaggy dog of indeterminate breed, is the



Khrushcha the pig: a practical joker

sort to whom things have to be explained several times, slowly and in words of one syllable. The grey rabbit, Stepashka (a mock-rustic name), is Khrushcha's stooge. Easily led, he has ears which wag in opposite directions when he is excited.

What all the characters have in common is their kindness and lack of malice. They have also, in spite of the programme's captive audience and virtual monopoly of children's broadcasting, been entirely free of politics. From time to time they dispense gentle lessons in survival: which mushrooms not to pick, the perils of ignoring pedestrian traffic lights, the wisdom of asking a policeman the way, but nothing more didactic than that.

Early in December, Good Night, Children was trans-

planned from its old, familiar studio near the centre of town to the vast empire of State Television on the northern outskirts. The move was completed in time for the new-year programme to be taped, with the participation of five trained cats, a professor of physics with a false nose and a red hat, and your correspondent.

Perhaps for the first time, the programme contained something close to a political message. "Remember," said the professor, "that however hard it is for you, it is even harder for your mother and father. Do all you can to help them."

"Of course we will," chorused the puppets in reply. Thus will Khrushcha, Filya and Stepashka make their small contribution to social stability this winter.



Unhappy new year: a young woman weeps outside her heavily damaged home in Tbilisi, capital of Georgia, after fierce fighting yesterday between troops loyal to Zviad Gamsakhurdia, president of the republic, and opposition forces led by Tengiz Kitomani

Tbilisi rebels predict fall of parliament building

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN TBILISI

GEORGIA'S rebel national guard commander undertook yesterday to seize the parliament building in Tbilisi within 11 days, even at a high cost in lives. "A storming is inevitable... and it is likely that a lot of people will be killed," Tengiz Kitomani said, going on to describe President Gamsakhurdia, his former boss, as a satan who must be overthrown.

Moments after he spoke to reporters at the former Institute of Marxist Theory, where his forces are based, a new-year lull in the ten-day conflict came to an abrupt end with several hours of single shots and automatic fire. With a well-developed sense of impending danger, residents of the city centre, which only a month ago was one of the most enchanting in the world, began drifting away from the combat zone as the fighting was about to begin.

Mr Kitomani said that the chances of a peaceful settlement between loyalists and rebels had plummeted after the pro-government forces broke a ceasefire and killed

one of his men on Saturday night. World opinion would understand the need to overthrow the president, he said.

Mr Kitomani, an artist, rejected Mr Gamsakhurdia's authority last August after being told to stand down his fledgling army as a concession to the leaders of the abortive Moscow coup. Flanked by unshaven fighters whose spirits seemed undimmed by the spartan conditions in which they had entered 1992, with only glasses of local brandy to celebrate, Mr Kitomani predicted that the task of toppling the president would be completed by January 13.

"We will all be back in our homes by the old-calendar New Year's day," he declared, claiming that the president, hiding in the basement of parliament a few hundred yards away, had surrounded himself with teenage boys and girls as a shield against attack.

Neither this, nor the suggestion from other opposition commanders that dysentery had broken out in the embat-

ted government building, could be confirmed by the few visitors able to brave a hail of bullets to enter the premises. The several hundred fighters guarding the president were reported to be more nervous than before, but in nothing like the disarray that wishful opposition thinking has tried to convey.

A coalition of local parties opposed to the president announced its intention yesterday of forming a provisional government which would claim supreme authority in a republic where the machinery of government and ordinary police work has ground to a halt. But the success of this project, launched by moderate parliamentarians along with more radical figures like Gia Chanturia, who has just escaped from jail, will probably depend on the military outcome of a stand-off involving artillery pieces, armoured cars and small tanks.

Jaba Ioseliani, the pro-opposition militia commander who escaped from custody with Chanturia, is reported to have threatened to break open a jail containing hundreds of criminals unless about 70 of his volunteers are released. Fighters in the opposition camp said that at least 14 of their fellow soldiers were prisoners of pro-government forces, and they were likely to have been tortured brutally and injected with drugs, to judge by the account of one comrade who escaped from hospital.

Upwards of 70 people are feared to have died in a conflict that increased sharply on December 22, a low figure when set against the vast quantity of ammunition that has been used in the once elegant street, whose historic opera and theatre buildings have both been damaged.

While the range of forces deployed against the president has grown in recent days, and expanded yesterday to include the commander of a small unit deployed at the television tower in a strategic area overlooking the city, reports from the presidential camp suggested that the loyalist forces included professional soldiers with combat experience. Many women sympathisers were in the headquarters of both sides.

Revival plan shows darker side of Brittany resort

Feuding over a new breakwater project off the port of Trébeurden has turned neighbour against neighbour, Philip Jacobson writes from Paris

For the first time in memory, the new year was ushered in without official celebrations in the little Breton seaside resort of Trébeurden, where feuding over a seaside development project has turned neighbour against neighbour.

There were no festive decorations, no fairy lights, and gossip in the bars around the old harbour was mostly about what 1992 would bring in the saga of the "forbidden breakwater". For almost two years this unattractive stone construction has been reaching out from Trozou beach, once a favourite spot for holidaymakers to set out their sunshades and deck chairs.

Now some 300 yards long and surrounded by iron piles driven into the sea where building work on a marina with berths for 560 pleasure boats has been going on, the breakwater dominates the front.

The project, almost 90 per cent complete, should have been finished last summer, but it ran into stiff opposition from a lobby uniting some of the town's 3,000 residents in a common front with ecologists concerned about the impact of such development on this stretch of the rugged pink granite coastline of northern Brittany. Nine months ago the authorities ordered the work stopped, and although the developers subsequently submitted modifications that allowed them to continue, a Rennes court issued another order to stop work a few days before Christmas.

By then feelings were running high in Trébeurden and the affair had been given a new twist with the arrest of Alain Guennec, the town's go-ahead mayor, on suspicion of financial misconduct connected with the project, which had always been very much his baby. He conceived the infant, with enthusiastic support from the chamber of

commerce, as a means of reviving the town's dying traditional tourist business. His supporters took to Trébeurden's narrow streets to stage a protest on Christmas day, when the council turned off the lights "in solidarity with our imprisoned mayor". There was muttering about undue influence exerted by outsiders owning holiday homes in the vicinity. "Certain families have a lot of influence in political circles in Paris and they used it to stop the project," the chamber of commerce's president told *Le Figaro*.

According to Pierre Dagorn, Trébeurden's deputy mayor, the new port will open; he has requested a hearing before France's Council of State and wants Edith Cresson, the prime minister, to send an official mission to "sort out this business". Although he is adamant that the majority of townspeople back the scheme, opposition groups



say they hope to see the construction declared illegal and torn down. "It was never more than an exercise in pure megalomania and the state must pay for letting it go ahead," one prominent activist said.

The argument rages, too, between people who have known each other all their lives but cannot agree on what is good or bad for Trébeurden. M Guennec is still in jail, having been charged formally, and his supporters plan more demonstrations. Unconcerned, the cold seas off the remains of Trozou beach still slap at the breakwater where the trouble began.

United Nations: pressing priorities await moribund talking shop turned global force

El Salvador pact crowns De Cuéllar's 10-year reign

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

JAVIER Pérez de Cuéllar signed off as head of the United Nations in triumph by brokering an accord that brings peace to El Salvador. "I am a free man; I feel as light as a feather," the Peruvian said as he left the United Nations headquarters in the early hours of the new year as the end of a three-day negotiating marathon which forged a compromise between the government and rebel leaders of the Central American country. Just before midnight, ending Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's ten-year tenure, President Cristiani and leaders of the left-wing Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front overcame final obstacles to a ceasefire in a civil war which has claimed nearly 80,000 lives.

The settlement capped a grand slam in peacemaking for the secretary-general, aged 71, whose stewardship saw the UN transformed from a moribund talking shop to a vigorous instrument of global diplomacy. Though the revival was catalysed by the collapse of East-West antagonism, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, a man of quiet persistence who once dreamed of becoming a concert pianist, has won high praise for seizing the opportunities opened by the historical change.

The El Salvador accord, to be formalised on January 16, crowned a string of successes which opened when the secretary-general won the confidence of Iran and promoted a settlement to the Iran-Iraq

war in 1988. His mediation also ended conflicts in Cambodia and Namibia, helped extract Soviet forces from Afghanistan and won the release of all but two Western hostages in Lebanon. "It's been a really remarkable record, in many ways, what the UN did in other aspects of its 45 years of existence," said Thomas Pickering, the American ambassador, as Señor Pérez de Cuéllar handed over to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the Egyptian deputy prime minister, and left for a holiday in the Bahamas. He is to retire to Geneva where he plans to write and occasionally lend his services for diplomatic missions.

It was fitting that his final act in El Salvador should turn the page on a conflict which, though born of deep local causes, turned into a battlefield with Cold War dimensions. The United States poured well over \$1 billion into propping up the Salvadoran military and the shaky civilian government which it dominated. On the other side, the liberation front, a battle-hardened guerrilla force, drew its moral power from Marxism and its material strength from Cuba, the Sandinista government in Nicaragua and through them, the Soviet Union.

El Salvador was the last in a line of ideological battlefields where American commitment to human rights and democracy were subordinated



Marathon man: Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the outgoing secretary-general, making a point in protracted peace talks in El Salvador

to the need to back a brutal, or "authoritarian" regime. Under American pressure, the Salvadoran military, built up to 50,000 men, did curb their death squads and excesses in the late 1980s.

Reform of the forces proved the main obstacle in periodic negotiations with the front. Emerging from the talks, Safik Handal, the senior FMLN leader, said the accords "are going to transform the country. The army will be reformed, reduced and the

impunity of the military chiefs will be ended." President Cristiani, an American-educated politician who has had to fight intense displeasure from the military and his own right-wing Arena party, welcomed the flexibility which he said the front had shown. Negotiations later this month will deal with dissolving their military structure and integrating them into civilian life, he said.

The peace accord draws on previously outlined schemes

to reform the judiciary, establish safeguards on human rights and reduce the armed forces to half their current size. A new security police force is to be formed and counter-insurgency units abolished. Two commissions will investigate the military role in human rights violations. Once the peace accords are implemented, Washington is expected to guarantee the final settlement and provide funds for reconstruction.

Leading article, page 13

Daunting challenges face Boutros Ghali

Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor, looks at the array of tasks confronting the new UN secretary general in trouble spots around the world

Boutros Boutros Ghali, formerly an Egyptian deputy prime minister, takes over as the United Nations secretary-general today at a time when the UN has never before commanded such international support or faced challenges in so many parts of the world.

From Cyprus to Somalia, Yugoslavia to Cambodia, the revitalised world body is playing a central role in brokering ceasefires, supervising the deployment of peacekeeping forces and organising humanitarian missions to feed, clothe and shelter the victims of war and famine.

Dr Boutros Ghali's most pressing priority is the dispatch of a 10,000-strong peacekeeping force to Yugoslavia. Cyrus Vance, the secretary-general's special envoy, yesterday announced that Serbia and Croatia have now accepted the UN peace plan.

On Tuesday the UN Security Council, in response to a German request, also asked UN envoys to investigate the feasibility of sending peacekeeping forces to guard a hydroelectric dam in Croatia, which Germany said the Yugoslav federal army was threatening to blow up.

Another peacekeeping mission is about to get under way in Cambodia, where the UN is supervising the power-sharing agreement signed in Paris in October. The current deployment of 300 members of the UN advance mission will be augmented by 10,000 peacekeeping troops and administrators of the UN transitional authority in Cambodia, who are to monitor the ceasefire and disarm and demobilise the four warring groups. The UN will also play a key role in humanitarian aid to return refugees, provide emergency food rations and help clear minefields sown during 21 years of war.

Dr Boutros Ghali has to ensure that the hard-pressed UN can find the cash for such a big operation.

He faces other demands elsewhere. The accord announced in New York on Tuesday to end the civil war in El Salvador foresees negotiations resuming on Sunday under his chairmanship.

The civil war in Somalia has shattered the country and brought demands for intervention. Yesterday a UN emissary arrived in Mogadishu, where he will try to persuade rival clans to end clashes that have killed and wounded up to 20,000 people. So far UN operations have been confined mainly to the relatively peaceful north of the country, though some relief supplies have been sent to the capital.

Dr Boutros Ghali will come under pressure, as did Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, his predecessor, to speed up UN relief efforts even before a ceasefire can be put in place on the ground.

Elsewhere in Africa, the new secretary-general has already been asked by the security council to draw up a new report on establishing voting criteria in a referendum on the future of Western Sahara. The UN plan, drawn up on the basis of a 1974 census, proposes offering the inhabitants a choice of independence or integration with Morocco to end the fighting in the former Spanish colony by Polisario, the front engaged in guerrilla warfare against Morocco. Señor Pérez de Cuéllar produced a report which Polisario and several non-aligned countries said favoured Morocco, and the security council asked Dr Boutros Ghali to produce another.

The UN is also attempting to broker political solutions to two other long-running disputes: in Cyprus and in Afghanistan. Señor Pérez de Cuéllar was personally engaged in trying to bring together the leaders of the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus, and Dr Boutros Ghali will need all his diplomatic skills and pressure to achieve this goal. The UN, meanwhile, has a standing peace force in Cyprus deployed along the line separating the two communities.

In Afghanistan, the UN, which brokered the Geneva accords that led to the withdrawal of Soviet forces, may now monitor the Soviet-American agreement to prevent new weapons reaching either side. It is also likely to be asked to help in the resettlement of hundreds of thousands of refugees who fled to Pakistan.

In the Middle East, Dr Boutros Ghali must supervise the enforcement of continuing UN sanctions on Iraq. UN envoys have negotiated with President Saddam Hussein on humanitarian questions since the end of the Gulf war, and UN forces are still in northern Iraq to protect the Kurds. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said this week that it would leave the northern Kurdish region by April, having co-ordinated international relief operations in the area since June.

Direct UN engagement in the Arab-Israeli peace talks has been kept to a token presence. Continuing Israeli hostility means that the body is not likely to play a larger role for the foreseeable future.

Demobbed soldiers may turn to banditry

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

DIPLOMATS and United Nations officials in Cambodia fear that thousands of soldiers demobilised under the UN peace plan may turn to banditry because they cannot find jobs. Foreign envoys say the menace to order posed by the demobilised troops, who could number up to 200,000, is the most pressing problem facing Cambodia at a time when the peace process seems on course again.

Under the UN-sponsored accords signed in Paris on October 23, 70 per cent of the armies of the four warring factions, including the Khmer Rouge, are to hand in their arms and be demobilised. The rest will be based in UN-guarded cantonments. "Even if they are disarmed, weapons are easily obtained in Cambodia," said one diplomat who attended Monday's successful meeting of the Supreme National Council grouping all four factions. "The troops are very concerned about their future. The big worry is that they will turn to banditry."

Diplomats said the safe return to Phnom Penh of Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge leader, on Monday — even if he did leave for Bangkok again after only 24 hours —

and the successful convening of the national council for the first time on Cambodian soil were reasons for guarded optimism. "All sides said the right things and seemed eager to push ahead with implementing the accords," said one diplomat who was present. "That signals to me that the momentum of the peace process has been regained after some serious difficulties."

Diplomats say that under the market economy introduced in 1989, thousands of Cambodians in the capital became prosperous in a war-fuelled economy. The troops who fought the war for a pittance will want to be given their share and will take it if they are not, the diplomats fear, so UN and bilateral assistance should be focused on finding something for the soldiers to do. Otherwise, instability could degenerate into anarchy.

Although this is only one of the problems facing the country, one of the world's poorest, after 21 years of war and political terror, Cambodians entered the new year with more hope than for two decades. The latest departure of Mr Khieu Samphan is not regarded as a setback now

that the national council, which is to work alongside the UN in implementing the peace accords, is to meet regularly. Diplomats assume he left to report the outcome of the council meeting to Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge's "brother number one", who has several secret bases along the Thai-Cambodian border.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who chaired the council meeting, wrote to the UN secretary-general asking for a quick deployment of the first part of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, which will eventually include 10,000 soldiers and administrators. At the moment there are fewer than 300 members of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia in a holding operation.

Diplomats say the primary difficulty in the immediate deployment of the transitional authority is financial. "It is a matter of getting donors to cough up adequate resources," said one.

● Bangkok: The Khmer Rouge accused Vietnam yesterday of shelling villages and murdering women and children in the eastern Cambodian province of Kompong in attacks from December 13-15. (Reuters)

Bombers attack school

FROM REUTERS IN JOHANNESBURG

SIX explosions rocked a South African school yesterday. They were apparently the work of right-wingers angered by plans to admit black pupils to previously all-white classes. The blasts in the eastern Transvaal town of Nelspruit caused no injuries, but damage was estimated at two million rand (\$375,000), a police spokesman said.

No one has claimed responsibility for attacking the school, which is due to open to all races later this year. But right-wing extremists opposed to political reform are blamed for bombings linked to the start of talks between blacks and whites on a new constitution. Some whites have threatened to take up arms rather than submit to rule by a black-dominated government. Police say extremists are plotting to kill President de Klerk, the reformist president, and Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress.

Resistance to the ending of racial segregation has been strongest in rural towns like Nelspruit, where the prospect of multiracial schooling has caused widespread anger among whites. (Reuters)

Outback farmers flock to Canberra to beard Bush

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

A MORE tangible sign of the change in the world's priorities from military to economic concerns would be hard to imagine: where hundreds of peace demonstrators in kayaks and ferries once confronted American warships, only one boat yesterday pursued President and Mrs Bush as they cruised around Sydney harbour. Outnumbered ten-to-one by police and secret service vessels, the tiny inflatable was swamped in the churning waters around Mr Bush's luxury cruiser.

A woman baled furiously with a plastic bottle to keep the little boat afloat. An elderly

man with a white beard cried out something about death in the world, his words drowned by the sound of marine engines in the stiff breeze. Mrs Bush, in a red dress that glowed in the sun, posed for the cameras, first in front of the Harbour Bridge, then in front of the equally famous sailing-ship Opera House.

Although Mr Bush has come here ostensibly to thank Australia for its support in the Gulf war, Paul Keating, the new prime minister, is looking for more substantial gratitude: the removal of American farm subsidies which are ruining Australian farmers. Today in Canberra there will be no avoiding Australia's new breed of demonstrators, who have flown in from all over the crippled outback to confront Mr Bush.

Washington's farm subsidies, under its export enhancement programme, cost Australia an estimated \$1 billion (£420 million) annually in lost exports. Farmers are going bankrupt and leaving the land. Promising a tougher stand against America than did Bob Hawke, his predecessor, Mr Keating said he would battle for the farmers when he meets Mr Bush. But the showdown will come when Graham Blight, leader of the National Farmers' Federation, meets the president. Mr Blight says he will not mince words when he tells Mr Bush what a "fair dinkum" deal is all about.

Mr Bush signalled his complacency and response to his most loyal ally in the Pacific by saying yesterday that if Australians did not yet understand that the subsidies would remain, "they will by the time I get through".

One Australian Mr Bush went out of his way to see was Hugh Marsden, who was amazed to be invited to join the president for breakfast yesterday. Mr Bush had seen a newspaper photograph of Dr Marsden, an ardent admirer of the United States, running up the Stars and Stripes at his Sydney home for the visit. In publicity terms it made up for the American flag being earlier burnt outside the American consulate.

American condescension towards Australia appeared all too clear when one American commentator described Mr Bush's stopover here as a "body clock" stop, to readjust his metabolism before he flew on to the real business of tackling Japan over its own trade restrictions.

Patrick Newman visited Mongolia on behalf of Yorkshire Television, where he is head of development.



Book token: Barbara Bush admiring a gift handed over by Melanie Calloway, aged nine, a patient in Sydney's Prince of Wales hospital

UK saw Peres as risk

Jerusalem: Shimon Peres, now Israel's opposition leader and regarded in London as a moderate, was seen by a British official in 1961 as a threat to Middle East stability (Richard Beeston writes).

Israeli newspapers have reported that the head of the Foreign Office's Middle East department wrote in July 1961: "Peres is a dangerous idiot who wants to frighten Arabs at any cost." Mr Peres, then deputy defence minister, had said the launching of the Shavit II rocket was part of Israel's effort to develop surface-to-surface missiles. David Ben Gurion, who was then prime minister, had earlier claimed the projectile was for meteorological research.

Border fence

Delhi: India plans to fence the entire length of its border with Pakistan with barbed wire. P.V. Narasimha Rao, the prime minister, was quoted as telling reporters in the desert district of Barmer. (AFP)

Plea to China

Hong Kong: Just one week after his release, Lau Shan-ching, who spent ten years as a political prisoner in China, led a mass rally through Hong Kong to call for the release of all Chinese political prisoners.

Peking failure

Peking: China, the world's last leading communist power, admitted that it had failed to resolve many problems facing its 1.1 billion people, and said it would speed up reform this year. The People's Daily reported. (AFP)

Hangings call

Baghdad: President Saddam Hussein's eldest son called for a return to public beheadings or hangings to crush a crime wave including car bombs. Uday Saddam Hussein made the call in his semi-official newspaper, Babil. (Reuters)

Doctors' fears

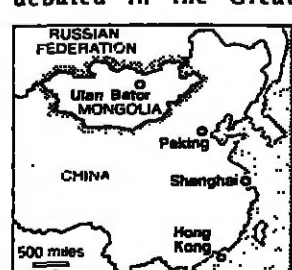
San Diego: Mother Teresa remained seriously ill in a California clinic, suffering from bacterial pneumonia and a heart complaint. Doctors were said to be hopeful, but "very concerned" about her. (Reuters)

Model crime

Elisloo, The Netherlands: A life-size model of Mikhail Gorbachev stolen from an Amsterdam wax museum was found after his resignation was day in a cafe here. (AFP)

Mongolian isolation deepens after big brother's demise

THIS is the first Mongolian winter without the "fraternal assistance of our big brother", as the Soviet Union was called by President Tserendal, the state's former socialist ruler. The implications of the collapse of Soviet power are being debated in the Great



People's Khural (the old name for Mongolia's parliament) which has been in session since November 20 attempting to draw up a new constitution. Mongolia's future is the subject for discussion in the dimly lit blocks of flats in

Ulan Bator and the remote desert gers, the conical felt tents in which the bulk of the semi-nomadic population still lives. The Mongols are seeking to come to terms with a new political isolation which matches the country's geographical remoteness. Mongolia is sparsely populated. Less than two million people live in a territory the size of Western Europe.

Mongolia's economic crisis is exacerbated by its geographical position. China, to the south, has not forgotten that the Manchu dynasty ruled Mongolia for centuries until 1911. With the departure of Soviet troops, Mongolia can ill afford to antagonise China.

But stirrings of Peking's interest in Mongolia are evident. A number of Chinese delegations are now being sent to Ulan Bator to offer joint venture deals on generous terms. In an unprecedented way, China is also courting Mongolia's cultural intelligentsia

Despite economic hardship, Mongolia is rediscovering its long suppressed culture and religion, Patrick Newman reports from Ulan Bator

and the officially sponsored first Mongolian film festival was held last week in Peking.

To the west lies the newly independent republic of Kazakhstan, but as yet there are no formal diplomatic links with Alma Ata. Mongolia has an ambivalent attitude to the Kazakh minority within its own borders, and cannot fail to be concerned by the nuclear arsenal on Kazakh territory.

The greatest problem lies to the north. Mongolia's vital hard currency exports must be sent on the trans-Siberian railway either east to the Pacific or west to Europe. There are increasing reports of Wild West style hold-ups of the train. Within Mongolia, the

most visible effect of Soviet collapse is the old Russian buses abandoned in the streets of Ulan Bator for want of petrol or tyres. The rickety transport system, which depended on imports from the Soviet Union, has collapsed as the Russians now demand hard currency for the world prices for their oil and spare parts. The streets are largely deserted, apart from a few highly decorated lorries packed with Mongols bringing in sheep and firewood from the surrounding steppe.

President Ochirbat's new regime has not yet stamped out the old attitude to state property and nepotism. The resurgence of old traditions is also evident in the renaissance of Mongolia's own

eclectic brand of Buddhism, which is heavily influenced by prehistoric animist and shamanistic practices.

In a remote valley in the southern Gobi a fat and squat neolithic sculpture, has since pre-Buddhist times been worshipped as the "rocky mother". The old valley was out of bounds under the communist rule, but within the past few months sacrifices have been made at the base of the figure. Her assistance is sought by many including the senior executives of Mongol Television with whom I visited the site.

Orthodox Buddhism is also enjoying a revival after a bloody suppression which included the mass murder of more than 1,000 lamas in 1937. Kashok Bakula, the Indian ambassador to Mongolia, is himself one of the highest ranking lamas in the world. He maintains an "open door" policy to the devotees who besiege the embassy. In Mr Bakula's

avidly read pamphlets, he urges moderation and advocates Buddhism's "middle path" as a possible solution in Mongolia's search for a cultural future now that the Soviet Union no longer provides the enforced model.

There seems little danger at present of Mongolia's traditional culture being swamped. It is now undergoing a revival after decades of imposition of Russian culture. Mongols now are free to sing and listen to ballads lauding Genghis Khan, an imprudent offence under the old regime. They are replacing the Cyrillic alphabet with old Mongolian script.

Last week the Great People's Khural decreed that the alphabet will become mandatory in official documents from 1994. There are few Western visitors, and Western cultural influence is still muted.

Patrick Newman visited Mongolia on behalf of Yorkshire Television, where he is head of development.

Keating protest, page 30

The enigma and the Ecstasy

Users call them Love Doves and Disco Biscuits but, Thomson Prentice reports, there is growing evidence that a 'safe' designer drug can be a killer

The small white tablets were stamped with a dove of peace. Robert Parsonage, a Manchester teenager, paid £75 for five of them in a pub, but the real cost was his life. Within 24 hours he was dead, and the drug named Ecstasy had claimed another victim.

Ecstasy has many other names — Love Doves, Disco Biscuits, Denis the Menace, Rhapsody. In America, they call it the "hug drug", because it enhances the pleasure of physical contact.

The drug's combination of sensual stimulation, hallucinogenic effects and increased energy, giving a "high" lasting up to six hours, makes it a seemingly ideal accessory for thousands of teenagers who want to dance the night away at discos and acid-house parties. As a bonus, it is not chemically addictive.

During the past few years, Ecstasy has become by far the most popular illicit drug in Britain. As many as half a million people, most of them teenagers and young adults, are believed to use it. During this week's new year parties, thousands of youngsters will have "dropped E" as casually as they would a pint of lager.

While its popularity is increasing, so, too, is evidence of the drug's potentially lethal properties. Last year about six deaths in Britain were attributed to Ecstasy, and hospitals are reporting about 40 emergency admissions a month, most of them teenagers, with serious side-effects.

Such cases are reported to the National Poisons Unit in London, a reference centre providing expert information to hospitals. John Henry, a consultant physician at the unit, says: "The number of cases involving Ecstasy is increasing. We had about twice as many reports in 1991 as in the year before, and although half a dozen deaths doesn't sound much among perhaps half a million

users, it is double the total of the previous three years. Most of the deaths have involved massive internal bleeding because the drug can disrupt natural clotting processes. One girl was given 35 units of blood in 36 hours, but still died. A youth was given ten units in 14 hours. He, too, did not survive.

Doctors and researchers are also deeply concerned about the impact of Ecstasy on the brain. Some suspect it can cause long-term neurological damage as well as profound personality changes.

Last March, psychiatrists described in the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ) two Ecstasy patients with chronic paranoid psychosis. One, a man aged 28, tried to strangle his wife. He suspected her of infidelity, spied on her, and forced her to make false confessions. In the other case, a man aged 22 became convinced that his face was being deformed.

"An association with psychosis is particularly worrying because of the considerable increase in the use of the drug and its image as a fairly safe recreational substance," the psychiatrists said in the BMJ.

The growing recognition of the physical and psychiatric damage that Ecstasy can cause is overshadowed by the lack of scientific knowledge about its effects. As an illicit drug, Ecstasy has never been through the same rigorous pharmacological investigations imposed on any legitimate drug.

"We don't know why a single tablet can kill one person, while many tablets have little or no effect on others," Dr Henry says. "We know nothing about the long-term effects."

biochemist at London University, and the author of a recent research paper on the drug. Ecstasy resurfaced on a small scale in the 1970s as a tool in psychotherapy.

Because of its mood-altering effects, it was seen as a way of breaking down barriers between psychiatrists and their patients. As one psychiatrist put it: "It invites self-disclosure and self-exploration."

From its medically-controlled uses, MDMA rapidly became popular as a recreational drug first in America and then in Britain, where it was banned in 1977 because of its hallucinogenic effects and its potential to be abused.

The drug's popularity surged in the mid-1980s with the advent of acid house parties — huge gatherings, often involving thousands of teenagers.

Ecstasy is mass-produced in underground laboratories, chiefly in Germany and The Netherlands, but police have raided at least one drug "factory" in London. Often the tablets are stamped with a dove, the emblem



A danger by any name? John Henry, of the National Poisons Unit, which advises doctors on the growing designer drug problem, examines a sample of Ecstasy

of peace, giving rise to the "Love Doves" nickname. Almost 240,000 tablets were seized by British police or Customs officers in the first six months of 1991.

Dr Rattray, writing in *Essays in Biochemistry*, says: "The popularity of MDMA can be ascribed to its psychotropic (mood-altering) effects. Users experience a five-to-six hour 'high' which produces increased activity, mood elevation, and alterations in perception."

"In most cases there do not

appear to be any long-term consequences of MDMA abuse. For some individuals, MDMA can cause a severe acute reaction, including hypothermia, alterations in cardiovascular function, respiratory distress and intravascular coagulation, which may result in death."

Studies of laboratory rats suggest the drug damages neurones, or brain chemicals, influencing mood and behaviour, but whether it causes similar long-term neurological damage in humans is not yet known.

hospital they are usually severely dehydrated, exhausted, with very high temperatures and rapid heartbeats. They have internal bleeding on such a scale that in some cases no amount of blood transfusions and clotting agents can stop it."

The number of known Ecstasy-related deaths may be few, but they are frighteningly indiscriminate. "I don't know why the drug hits some people so hard and leaves the rest unscathed, but there is an urgent need for medical research," Mr Jones says.

Dr Henry agrees, and says the National Poisons Unit is setting up one such project. "With a prescribed drug, it is relatively easy to monitor adverse effects through the yellow-card system used by GPs. But there is no such system for an illicit drug like Ecstasy," he says.

"So an accurate picture of the real scale of side-effects, and their long-term consequences, is unobtainable. In the meantime, we have to conclude that it is potentially a very dangerous substance."

100 years from the laboratory to a fashion accessory

Despite its fashionable image as a "designer" drug, Ecstasy is almost 100 years old. It began life in a German pharmaceutical laboratory at the end of the last century, and was patented in 1914 as an appetite suppressant, but never marketed.

All its current nicknames are much easier to pronounce than its chemical title: "methylendioxyamphetamin."

Abbreviated to MDMA by doctors and chemists. According to Marcus Rattray, a

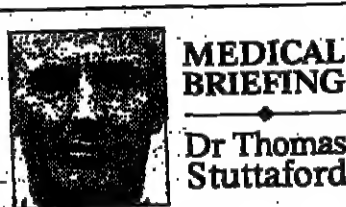
The heart of the matter

MOTHER Teresa, whose life has been devoted to the service of others, may this week have quite unwittingly done another service to another medically underprivileged group — the aged. Mother Teresa caught a cough and a cold while travelling in Mexico and, as is so often the case in older patients who are not immediately and vigorously treated, secondary bacterial infection gave rise to pneumonia.

In Mother Teresa's case, recovery was complicated by heart strain secondary to coronary arterial disease. But the Californian doctors did not shrug their shoulders, mutter about her age, and prescribe "nursing care and fluids only", but arranged angioplasty, a procedure whereby the atherosclerotic (fatty) plaques are flattened against the coronary artery wall so that the blood can again reach the heart muscle which had previously been weakened by want of oxygen.

As the pneumonia is treated with the antibiotics, breathing improves and the blood not only becomes better oxygenated but, now that the coronary arteries are cleared, is again able to course around Mother Teresa's heart muscle. Californian hospital authorities hope that Mother Teresa may be discharged within 14 days to continue her work but, being cautious, they warn that at her age — 81 — other complications might arise.

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ageist approach to cardiac surgery, so that patients who are old but otherwise well are being denied the procedures which would be routinely offered to younger patients suffering from the same conditions. He points out that improved surgical, and perhaps above all anaesthetic, techniques now enable elderly patients to be comparatively safely exposed to cardiac surgery.

Mother Teresa was fortunate. The angiogram, the X-ray studies of her coronary arteries, showed that the blocked vessels would be amenable to angioplasty and that bypass surgery would not be necessary. But in other patients of her age group, bypass surgery has been carried out — with good results.

Any elderly patient whose activities are being restricted by the pain of angina, or the tiredness which follows coronary heart disease, should remember Mother Teresa, and ask for a few investigations.

with erythropoietin (EPO), is slightly less, about £5,000 a year. EPO, by stimulating red blood cell production, counteracts the anaemia which complicates long-standing kidney disease, and thereby alleviates the tiredness which has made every movement an effort for the patient, and has dulled their intellectual activities. However, because of the cost, and despite a parliamentary campaign, less than half the patients who would benefit from it receive it.

Most doctors will do their best for the patient, regardless of cost, and without thought of the nature of disease or how it has been acquired. But others will have to ponder the thought that although the individual benefits from the AZT-acyclovir cocktail, the treatment isn't a cure but will merely prolong active life, thereby increasing the possibility that the sufferer might infect others. The irony is that the better the treatment, short of finding a cure for the individual, the worse it could become for the community in terms of their public health.

ANTHONY Norman Aure joined the rush to the sexually transmitted disease clinic this week, not as one of the many casualties of seasonal revellers, but because it was time for his routine six-monthly check. Aure isn't his real name, or even the name we welcomed him under this week, or in the summer. But whatever his latest comic pseudonym, and whether with or without his beard, in casual clothes or office suit, we are always pleased to see him and respect his desire to preserve confidentiality.

Anthony, who is homosexual and in the summer was HIV-negative, is thrilled by the news that if acyclovir is taken at twice the normal dose and in conjunction with AZT (Zidovudine), the development of life-threatening symptoms in patients who became HIV-positive might be delayed. Although well-read and subjected to years of counselling, Anthony is still promiscuous — two or three partners a week, usually strangers or casual acquaintances. Condoms tend to be used with old friends, but Anthony frequently has penetrative sex, not necessarily with protection, with partners he knows to be HIV-positive.

The annual cost of acyclovir — £5,000 to £6,000 a year — is greater than the total old-age pension for a married pair and will have to be added to the bill for AZT, which is already just under £2,000 a year. It will be up to individual doctors to decide about the rival claims of other chronically ill patients, particularly those of renal disease, for the limited funds available. By coincidence, the cost of treating a patient with renal failure

Drunk with power
DOWN the ages, doctors and laymen have noticed that alcohol and digestion do not mix, but those injudicious enough to combine them have recently taken comfort in the thought that if heartburn, gastritis or the ulcer play up, one of the H₂ blockers — Zantac, ranitidine, or Tagamet, cimetidine — can come to the rescue.

But recent research, albeit involving a small number of patients, reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, suggests that both drugs may dramatically increase blood levels of alcohol after drinking. It is thought that these effects are due to an increased rate of absorption, but it should be remembered that both drugs can, fortunately rarely, cause liver damage. Until the question is settled, those who drink would be well advised to rely on over-the-counter antacids, or possibly take the rival to the H₂ blockers, Losec (omeprazole).

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Patriarch of a Gallic Europe

This is the second and final volume, excellently translated, of Jean Lacouture's biography of de Gaulle. Foreign editor of *Le Monde* throughout most of these years, M. Lacouture threads his way colourfully as well as lucidly through a mass of documentary and other evidence. As a fervent, but not fanatical, admirer of de Gaulle, he writes fairly and critically of his hero; as when he describes the General's nervous collapse amid the student riots of May 1968, or when he "indefinitely" refused an invitation to meet Roosevelt after Yalta in February 1944, two months before the latter's death.

De Gaulle emerges from the book not merely as a remarkable character, but as a rare one. Half soldier, half bishop: a devotee of democracy and the arts as well as a politician, profoundly democratic but often accused of Bonapartism; an orator who hated party politics; a believer in the lessons of history rather than in doctrine or philosophy.

The world for the General consisted not of ideologies but of nations. He shocked the Americans, Dulles especially, by treating the distinction between communism and non-communism as not at all that important. He detested supranational bodies, and once described the Brussels Commission as a "group of clever and perhaps useful men, but not a Government". His inner conviction that he had received a sacred mission to save France, regardless of all obstacles, gave him immense determination and courage, but hardly made him a comfortable colleague.

Did the General himself possess any sense of humour? True, when Paul Reynaud had been voicing pro-British sentiments, he received a letter next day addressed in the General's hand-writing, with no contents, but a note on the back reading: "If absent, forward to Agincourt and Waterloo". But was even this comment made in anger?

That de Gaulle rescued the broken and tormented France of 1944, and in the end raised her to a stronger political and economic status than at any time in the Third

Douglas Jay, a member of Harold Wilson's cabinet, on de Gaulle's vision of Europe

or Fourth Republics, and that nobody else could have done it, there can be no doubt. But the tragedy of de Gaulle's life-long achievement was his quarrel with Franklin Roosevelt, which fostered into a creeping anti-American feud that still disfigures Gaulism even today. It was Roosevelt's mistake, understandable but unnecessary, to underestimate and indeed belittle de Gaulle throughout the war. Since de Gaulle normally classed all "Anglo-Saxons" as one human

DE GAULLE
The Ruler 1945-1970
by Jean Lacouture
Collins Harvill, £25.00

species, the Gaullist "animosity" tended to rub off on the British also. Was the General embittered by the Anglo-Saxon role in the liberation of France? Did Normandy rankle as much as Agincourt?

But the most tragic blunder of all was the fault of the British. One of de Gaulle's rare qualities was his ability to rise to rare levels of vision and magnanimity. He could and did praise the British with a lofty eloquence all his own. In February 1969, after saying "No" to British membership of the EEC in 1963 and 1967, he invited the British ambassador, Christopher Soames, to lunch at *quatre* with their respective wives. De Gaulle then made a novel and far-reaching proposal. Anglo-French talks, he suggested, should be started towards a "European Europe" of nations; and he promised that "if the two Governments could solve their difference of view, he would agree to study a profound 'trans-

formation' of the Common Market with a view to making room for Britain". There would be a looser economic arrangement and a resulting political association in which France, Britain, Germany and Italy would play a major part. He wanted the British to propose this and he could then welcome it.

This could have been an epoch-making offer, which would, if realised, have given Britain almost everything it needed, and might well have ended the post-war Franco-British tension once and for all. Of course the talks might not have succeeded. But since with the support of the General and the British government they would have had a fair chance, the offer should have been followed up. Soames informed the Foreign Office at once, recommending acceptance. Instead, the FO blundered lamentably over what misleadingly became known as "the Soames affair". In this case the General understood real British interests far better than most people in London. Yet though he made the offer in strict confidence, the FO induced the prime minister, Harold Wilson, who was then in Bonn, to pass it on to the German Chancellor, and also itself published Soames's telegram before the British Cabinet knew anything about it. According to M. Lacouture, the FO even "distorted" the Soames report before publication. The General's reaction to the breach of confidence was fury. All chance of reconciliation was gone.

M. Lacouture's account of this offer by de Gaulle only reinforces my own judgement that it was the worst blunder of British policy since 1945 — perhaps this century. It inflamed the worst Gaullist suspicions about the good faith of the "Anglo-Saxons" and so hardened the Franco-German axis which is with us still. M. Lacouture is wrong, I suspect, in attributing the FO's conduct to deliberate cunning and "deep distrust" of de Gaulle. It was much more probably due to misunderstanding of the issues at stake and a curious temporary belief that the Treaty of Rome was a sacred text. But whatever the motives, the consequences were the same.



The general and the ambassador: de Gaulle fails to overshadow the late Christopher Soames

Fickle muse of fire

Robert Nye

SELECTED POEMS
by John Crowe Ransom
Carcanet, paperback, £6.95

Poets are born not made, but some born poets are made poets for a brief while only. Something of someone made John Crowe Ransom write excellent poems for about four years, from the beginning of 1922 until the end of 1925. He was then in his thirties, a university teacher at Vanderbilt, the son of a Methodist minister from Tennessee. He had already written theological verse of no great interest or promise. After his muse departed he wrote a few more poems in the 1930s, of which only *Prelude to an Evening* is even reminiscent of the work of the inspired years. He lived on until 1974, respectable and respected, spending his latest years revising those early poems. I think these revisions should be ignored, Ransom the critic being demonstrably the enemy of Ransom the poet.

Ransom's *Selected Poems* is an important book. The body of first-rate work in it may be small, but the pleasure and instruction to be had from reading it can be accounted large. The scope of the poems is domestic, the poet's voice formal and ironic, holding passion at arm's length by delicacy of diction. A fierce aristocratic wit, held mostly in check, takes complete control of "Captain Carpenter", one of the very few successful modern ballads, and a poem which rises in its final stanzas to heroic heights. "Two Gentlemen in Bonds" is a sonnet sequence in which technical grace matches seriousness; its subject is the quarrel between body and mind, never far from Ransom's finest "Survey of Literature" (Sing a song for Perry Shelley/Drowned in pale lemon jelly) says more in 14 stanzas about poetry than most professors say in a lifetime.

But Ransom's most moving poems are about death, death in a homey and familiar context, the death of children. "Dead Boy" mourns truthfully an unlikable cousin (A pig with a pesty face, so I had said). "Bells for John Whiteside's Daughter" is breathtakingly lovely in its evocation of how a young girl's geese might grieve for her.

The last poem, like a snow cloud
Drifting their snow on the green grass.

Tricking and stopping, sleepy and proud.

Who cried in goose, alas... This is dangerous ground, one beset with possible sentimentality. Ransom traverses it both by his skill as a prosodist and by a scrupulousity of feeling which that skill reflects. He is also a preeminent love poet.

Two evils, monstrous either one apart.

Possessed me, and were long and loath at going.

A cry of Absence, Absence, in the heart.

And in the wood the furious winter blowing.

This book should be in the library of any young poet, or any reader, young or old, who cares for poetry at all. They may treasure the wonders Ransom was given in the four years of his inspiration, and learn from the appendix of "pairings" of original and revised versions something of the mystery of what makes and can unmake a poet.

Beaming bureaucrat in gaiters

Owen Chadwick

ARCHBISHOP FISHER
His Life and Times
by Edward Carpenter
The Canterbury Press Norwich, £35

things right and tidy. This was wonderful at a coronation where he rehearsed till everyone was tired and the result was magnificent. It worked less well when others had their opinion and, being argumentative, he would persist long after it had begun to irritate the other side. He fought with the deans of St Paul's, Westminster Abbey and Canterbury, yet his three successors saw no need to do so. The worst moment in this book was when he did not give the sacrament to the kneeling Moderator of the Church of Scotland, not at all because he did not wish to, but because it was not part of the protocol. He insisted that bishops wear gaiters at private meetings of bishops. But this was pedantry, not pomp, for he was a man without pomp. He did not want to be grand, he wanted everything to be correct.

Ramsay MacDonald, taking the advice of William Temple, recommended him to the King to be bishop of Chester; he had shot his bolt as headmaster of Repton and

Temple cared for the good of the school. Woolly old Bishop Winnington-Ingram claimed to have caused the choice of Fisher for the diocese of London, but that is impossible to credit. He may have caused it indirectly because he left the diocese of London in a mess and Fisher had a record for clearing up messes. He thought of himself as an amateur, he believed that he was not a man of ideas and that his sermons were pedestrian. On education Fisher was no amateur and even though he had nothing like a charisma, if the subject was practical he could rise to a height of coherent oratory. Most people thought of him as a man without emotions. In this remarkable book, which does not omit the wars, we find him weeping three times: twice when he heard that he must be bishop of London, a fate which he

thought horrible, and once when he went as pilgrim to the Holy Land and, after being swept by a crowd up the road to the

crucifixion, he wandered in Galilee. Churchill, who does not come well out of this book, recommended him to be archbishop during a world war, because he interviewed him and thought him tough. If it is desirable that the Archbishop of Canterbury be an administrator, then this choice was the best: he was good at budgets; and if ever there was a time when those qualities were needed it was in the age of reconstruction after the Second World War. His judgement on wider issues was less sure than his judgement on detail. He committed his Church, and unthinkable stretches of his own time, to an exhausting effort to revise the canon law, last revised in 1604. He

never forgave his denouncing of premium bonds as squalid and felt even angrier about his scorn of "You've never had it so good", so Fisher was no respecter of persons.

Church and State sometimes had a rough time. He intervened outrageously in the policy of the British government towards terrorism in Cyprus and the person in this book for whom the reader feels most sympathy is the colonial secretary, Lennox-Boyd. His view of his office was so high that he offered to mediate between Macmillan and Archbishop Makarios.

Some people disliked him. They wanted an archbishop who thought about God, like his predecessor Temple, or one with a depth of prayer, like his successor Ramsey. They resented his image as an able bureaucrat and a compulsive writer of letters. But unless a person got across him it was hard to dislike him, so jolly and beaming and exuberant and unpretentious was his personality, so comical his eyebrows and his spectacles pushed up into the non-existent hair. His staff liked him and admired him. People who sat under Temple's chairmanship or Ramsey's non-chairmanship sighed for Fisher.

He longed for a united Europe and if he were archbishop now he would be engaged in an awkward exchange of letters with John Major out of which, if we judge from the exchanges with Macmillan and Churchill and Eden, he would not have come off best. Eden's men never forgave the violence of his language about Suez, Macmillan

thought it one of his greatest achievements and certainly no one else could have pushed the tiding operation over such difficulties, but the result did not matter. One good part of him was his relation with his Stalinist dean at Canterbury, for he was under fire from every quarter because he did not get rid of so economic a backer of an odious dictator. Yet he retained balance and humour about the impossible situation. His visit to the Pope was courageous and a wiser man would not have risked it, for there was a danger of rebuff, yet the moment was a crux in the growth of friendship between the churches and prepared the way for Ramsey.

He longed for a united Europe

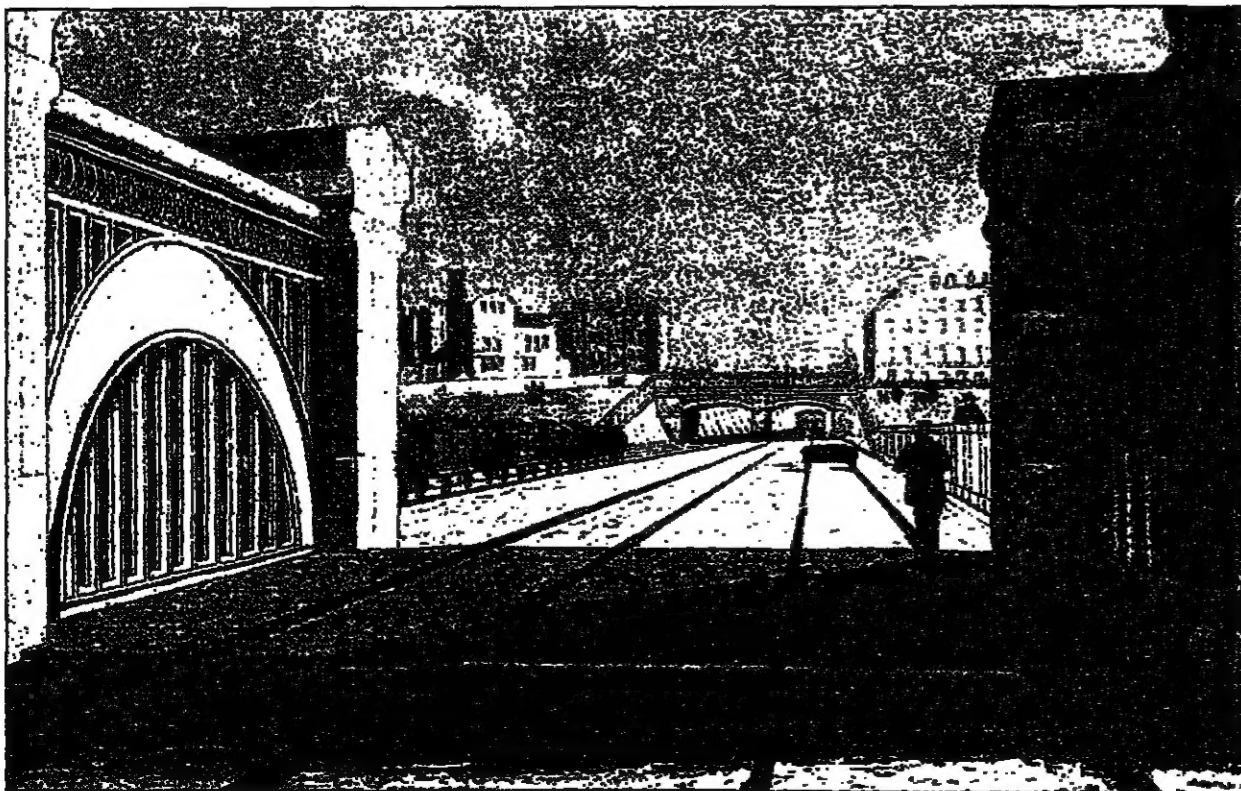
From gibbets to gentrification

Gillian Tindall

CAMDEN TOWN AND PRIMROSE HILL PAST
by John Richardson
Historical Publications,
£12.95

Held up in a bus the other week behind Camden's demonstrators, I wondered what the founder would have thought of it all. The operations of time and chance have finally extended his name over an entire contentious London borough, and made it a short-hand term for much more. But it is a mere 200 years this year since Charles Pratt, first earl of Camden, bestowed it on a rather downmarket property development of his on a muddy site south of venerable Kentish Town, near a road junction hitherto associated with two pubs, a workhouse and a gibbet.

Camden Town was never a village and only briefly was it a suburb. Within 50 years the cottage gardens full of cabbages and snails and chicken coops that Dickens remembered from his boyhood there were being swept away by the railway lines heading into the new main stations on the Euston Road. Even without the trains, the area had already by then been overtaken by London's relentless expansion. For the next 100 years or so Camden Town became that peculiarly English phenomenon — an area of fog and trans-



Victorian innocence and expanding horizons symbolised by Camden's railways and canals

virtually invisible to the middle classes passing through it on their way to more salubrious suburbs, yet one full of life. Camden has sheltered personalities as various as Engels, Sickert and Dylan Thomas, as well as countless Italians, Greek Cypriots and Irish families founding homes from home. It has trembled from bombs, demolitions and the

threat of a motorway, yet it has also been a hearth of passionate gentrification. Life and Times in NW1. It is twentieth century London in microcosm; and today seething Camden Lock, complete with a new iron structure like an ideal industrial relic, is a touristic name at the other end of the world. Poor Lord Camden. Lucky Lord Camden.

Lucky John Richardson, too, to have such a fertile subject for another in his illustrated Historical Publication series on London districts. The black-and-white of the old photos, prints, plans and trade advertisements that he employs is ideally suited to Camden Town's personality. And lucky Camden Town to have had such a meticulous and

well informed chronicler. He has also found for the dust jacket an Ackerman print of the 1830s which is both little known and appropriate. On a handsome iron bridge over the canal, somewhere to the north of King's Cross, with the shadowy dome of St Paul's in the distance, a pristine train of open trucks heads away into a shining industrial future.

The passion of the "older man" for a young woman is one of the great themes of modern history. The recklessness with which those who possess power and wisdom risk their marriages, reputations and careers for the sake of some smouldering bimbo or blonde dolly bird is among the strangest phenomena of western civilisation.

In this case the hapless male is Lieutenant-General Galton (Galt) Sandford, chief of staff to General "Big Drum" Wraith, US commander in the south Pacific in the second world war. His weakness down under is Private Dimity (Dim) Lewis, a clerk in the Allied Officers' Club in Melbourne and daughter of an up-country sheep grazer.

The tempted and his temptress are both married. If only just. Galt's wife Sandy, accustomed to long periods of separation, has carved out her own lifestyle in Virginia. Dim's husband Allan, an Australian special forces hero, is inexplicably cursed by sexual impotence.

Bewitched on his first encounter with young Dim (whose age approximates to that of his own daughters) the coldly efficient Galt stumbles from the casting couch down a long trail of indiscretions. He engineers her promotion to lieutenant, makes her entertainments officer on the staff and, as such, an indispensable item on his inventory. She even travels to the battlefield in New Guinea — to the delight of his enemies and distress of his friends. Now read on...

This perhaps is the moment to explain that William Coyle is an alias of the renowned Thomas Keneally, winner of

Drums for a false beard

Henry Stanhope

CHIEF OF STAFF
by William Coyle
Chatto & Windus, £14.99

the Booker Prize with *Schindler's Ark* in 1982 — and short-listed on at least one other occasion. He reveals his true identity in the blurb, which is rather like wearing a false beard on a bank raid, then whipping it off before the chief cashier. But his literary coyness is understandable.

Froze like "a crown of anger crossed her father's face" suggests that *Chief of Staff* like an earlier wartime novel by William Coyle, is aimed less at the Booker literati than at Joe Soap wandering round the bookstalls at Heathrow. This is the traditional "novel of epic scope" — as the publishers put it.

Still, on the basis that one good cliché deserves another, Mr Coyle (or Keneally) spins a captivating yarn. While it stays well short of being dramatised documentary, its fiction is reasonably well founded upon fact and the best parts are those in which the facts almost

take over — like those which reflect a continent at war and the politics of military preparation.

General Wraith, who has right-wing political aspirations to the White House, is based on General Douglas MacArthur. He even tells reporters on Adelaide station after being evacuated from the Philippines: "The enemy saw me retreat. But they shall soon see me return" — evoking memories of MacArthur's famous pledge. Sandford plays Brutus to this 20th-century Caesar, for the most part deeply loyal but, in the end, flawed. The subject matter is powerful enough and the canvas sufficiently broad to merit more serious treatment than it gets. The way in which Galt Sandford, so reliable, so cool-headed, imperious Wraith's and his own soaring ambitions for the sake of his innocent young Sheila, has potential which has not been fully exploited.

Despite the intrigue in Washington and the Pacific (some of which makes fighting the Japanese seem like child's play), the self-questioning by Dim (James) simmers against a young rival to the low-sick general... Coyle's explorations of feeling are superficial and his definitions of character at best blurred. Few of the dramatic personae hold one's attention and the love story rarely rises above the level of an illicit romance.

Chief of Staff is one of Keneally/Coyle's "commercial" works and as such will no doubt pay his bills for a while. But I feel that it could have been much more than that and I found myself wishing, while reading it, that it was.

CINEMA: INTERVIEW

talk to Stephanie Billen

In *Delicatessen* II, "Louis" is beating his wife and they have ten children," says Deunet. "And she's hugely pregnant," adds Caro, mock seriously. "The first shot is her, with this huge black eye, scrubbing the kitchen floor. . . . It's very important for humanity to be shown this, how hard it is to wash floors, especially without any hot water."

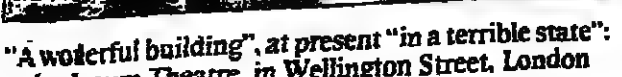


With four sets of Bill and Ted's wandering, colliding and dishing out sthick ("Woh!" and "Hey!"), hands strumming an imaginary guitar, the audience's patience is quickly exhausted. Chintzy special effects prove a further burden. William Sadler's Grim Reaper manages some laughs, dressed in a cowl, with a scythe and Swedish accent. British director Pete Hewitt — hired on the basis of his National Film and Television School graduation piece *The Candy Store* — can only shovel the material onto the screen and hope for the best. It is not forthcoming.

To suck the life from this plot (first aired in Paretsky's *Indemnity Only*) took the brains of three writers. Any spare creative juice was probably used up spinning puns about "dicks." Supporting characters such as Charles Durning's police lieutenant

The theatre was not the obvious choice eight years ago when John Drummond, former Radio 3 controller, directed the search for a London venue.

main contribution of the Victoria and Albert Museum (071-938 8500) to the Japan Festival. "Visions of Japan" comes over sometimes as more like a pavilion in some notional World's Fair than a museum exhibition, that is probably just what was intended. And along with the massage chairs and slot machines and karaoke booths there is even a little that is recognisable as art, for the earnest seeker. Until Sunday.



Owen John Self Portrait & Print
2 1/2" x 1 1/2"



No need to man the barricades

Jonathan Clark says attacks on our constitution are a more potent threat to order than riots or demonstrations

Could revolution happen here? Such things seem scarcely within the bounds of Britishness. Yet little more than a decade ago, the nation's alleged ungovernability was producing genuine forebodings in the minds of experienced observers. Writing in *The Times* in August 1977, Lord Chalfont warned that a "great and ominous change is taking place in the affairs of this country," and sounded the alarm against overturning the "delicate balance between freedom and order in society".

He wrote of the immediate aftermath of the Grunwick picket, a National Front march and a violent by-election; his concern was to stress how "political minorities in Britain are becoming more and more arrogant and contemptuous in their readiness to advocate and use violence against anyone who dissents from their views".

That form of threat to the rule of law was seen off by the government of the 1980s, and is unlikely to recur. Yet events since 1989 in Eastern Europe and finally in the Soviet Union itself have emphasised how vulnerable to destabilisation even the most seemingly secure states can be.

Since 1989, revolutions have changed their spots. Historians and political scientists used to explain them chiefly as the result of "pressure from without": regimes were toppled by militant minorities of the excluded or oppressed, organised around one or other programmatic ideology. Jacobins, Nazis

parliamentary elite over the EC and federalism will provide leadership more credible than that of bearded young students in Che Guevara berets.

Second, Eric Hobsbawm suggested that revolutions have been and can be averted by quietist religion, diverting temporal dissatisfaction into otherworldly channels. In the 1990s, we might argue that both communism and liberal constitutionalism acted as secular religions, but with the death of these gods widely reported, the rising tides of nationalism and material ambition find fewer and fewer obstacles in their paths.

Third, he argued that revolutionary pressures can be defused, as in Britain in 1832, by prudent concessions from the parliamentary classes. A parliament in the 1990s which resisted EC federalism, monetary union and regional devolution with enough resolution to defeat them might risk greater destabilisation, whereas piecemeal concession might buy peace through surrender.

Fourth, Hobsbawm suggested that revolutionary situations could be turned into real revolutions by alliances between



Chalfont: fears of civil breakdown in the 1970s

alliances between proletarian and bourgeois or an intellectual elite. Translated into British terms, that points an accusing finger at organisations like Charter 88: its charge that our constitution is irredeemably corrupt reverts to a strategy historically more potent than this century's class-war theories have ever been.

Charter 88, the Liberal Democrats, the Institute for Public Policy Research and Liberty (successor to the National Council for Civil Liberties) have all, in their constitutional proposals, expressed the same ahistorical understanding of what the constitution is and what it can be made to do.

On the continent, regimes have usually found themselves internally destabilised, like the Soviet Union, when their publicly professed ideologies are declared intellectually bankrupt. Whether liberal constitutionalism, the unifying principle of the United Kingdom in modern times, has been dealt a similar blow by the EC and federalism is a question of more than academic interest.

Just as generals seek to refight previous wars, so revolutionaries yearn for revolution on an old model — and with little success. Destabilisation of Britain, if it were to come, would not resemble the 1970s, with its mob disorder, barricades, politicised strikes and martyrdoms. It would not be a Marxist "crisis of capitalism", nor a populist, East European style resurgence of English nationalism: a shipwreck is unlikely to become a head of state. Destabilisation would take new forms, but would be no less real for that.

The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Nigel Hawkes asks why trials of a promising breast cancer drug have been delayed

Time to save lives

able to all. The long-term answer, however, must be prevention rather than treatment. There is growing evidence that tamoxifen can prevent the disease among susceptible women.

The proposal now is to try to demonstrate this effect in a large trial. Some 15,000 women would be recruited from high-risk groups: those with a family history of breast cancer. Half would be given the drug, the other half a placebo, and their progress would be monitored over ten years. If the optimism of those promoting the trial proves justified, breast cancers in the group receiving tamoxifen might be halved.

Is it justifiable to treat healthy women with a powerful drug in the hope of demonstrating a protective effect? If the trial proves successful, then millions rather than thousands might be so treated. Before going down that road we must be sure that any side-effects are well understood.

Doctors involved in the trial

have never attempted to dodge this issue, but they are beginning to lose patience with the small-scale pace at which the medical establishment has dealt with it. The cancer charities are satisfied, but the Department of Health and the MRC are still moving cautiously.

After promising a public hearing, the MRC got cold feet and set up a private committee, under Dame Mary Donaldson. The committee held one meeting and satisfied itself that the trial should go ahead, subject to the proviso that it should include only women already aware that they are at greater than average risk of breast cancer. This eliminated the danger that the doctors involved would tour the country pressing reluctant women into the trials. This was, of course, a purely theoretical danger, for there are already all-too-many women fully aware of the risk.

The Department of Health, for its part, ordered the Committee on Safety of Medicines to take

another look at the drug's safety. This request came very late, after tamoxifen had already been widely used in preliminary trials. The evidence on safety is good, the only question mark coming from Sweden, where an increased risk of cancer of the lining of the uterus was found. The effect has not been reproduced in the British trials.

The MRC has now weighed in again with the demand that the health economics of the trial should be examined. To the doctors involved this is an extraordinary request, which would make sense only if tamoxifen were a hugely expensive treatment. It is not the cost of making it generally available would be no greater than that of childhood inoculation against polio.

For the public, the least satisfactory part of the affair is that it has all taken place behind closed doors. When asked if it will publish Dame Mary Donaldson's report, the MRC equivocates. The promised public debate on the

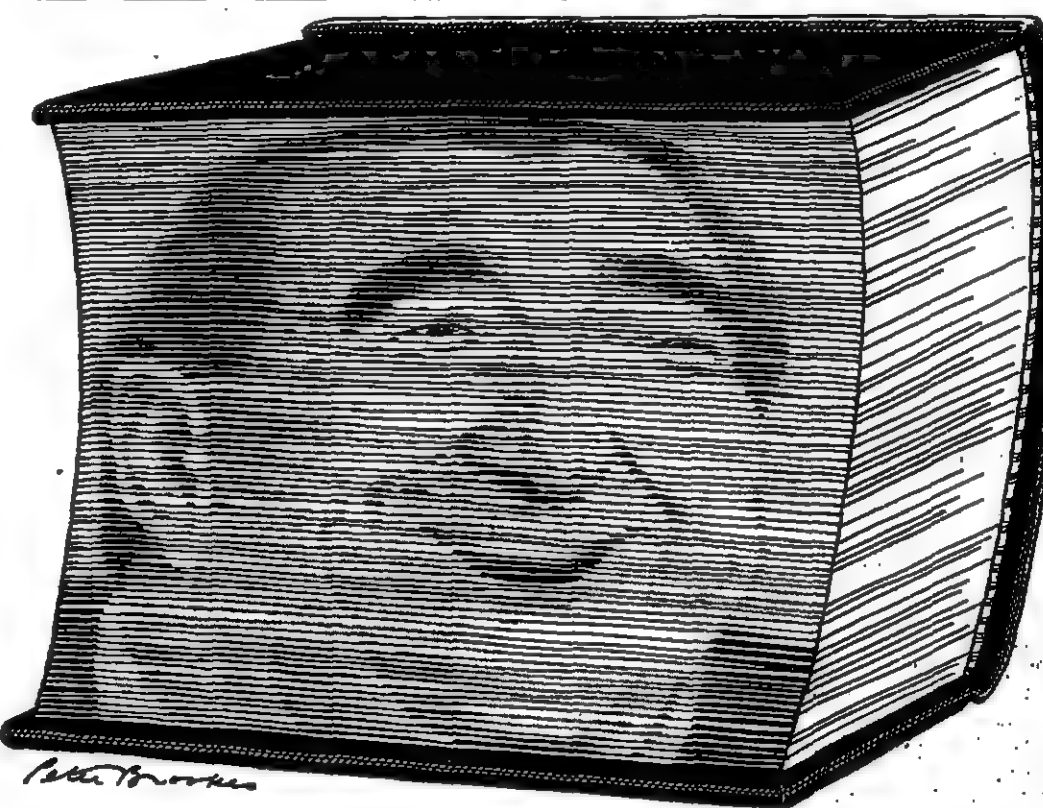
subject has been delayed on the grounds that the MRC wanted first to "tease out" issues, medical-speak for setting the question internally before the public has a chance to get involved.

Meanwhile, the doors concerned at the Royal Marsden and Guy's Hospital are beginning to lose heart. For four years at least they have been preparing openly for the trial, only to be thwarted at the last minute by the medical bureaucrats. While Britain has equivocated, America has gone ahead, with approval for a trial there from the usual suspects: Food and Drug Administration.

There may be good reasons for delay, but if so neither the MRC nor the Department of Health has demonstrated them. Given that more women die of breast cancer in Britain than in any other country, and that, unlike other cancers, the survival rate has hardly improved over the past 50 years, there is no excuse for temporising. Either the trial should be approved, or proper reasons should be given or refusing it. At present, the impression is one of muddle and complacency, while more than 300 women a week continue to die.

A life stranger than fiction

Bernard Levin fears that no novelist could do justice to the scale of Robert Maxwell's swindling and treachery



Robert Maxwell

inability to stretch our imaginations far enough to comprehend it. At which point, of course, the professional imaginers are called in. Within two years, perhaps sooner, there will be no fewer than six novels, all very bad, about a crooked television tycoon. The idea will be to astonish the reader by the brilliant and original notion of making the villain not a newspaper proprietor but a rogue in a similar industry. Further masterstrokes of the same kind of imagination will have the central character very thin, born in Japan and notoriously anti-Semitic. But the books will still be no good.

Why? It is not immediately easy to say. The facile answer is that because he was so crooked, and in so many ways, it is impossible to paint such a figure brightly enough to make him convincing.

A novelist would be stuck for criminal behaviour so grotesque as to out-top reality; reality has already reached the highest peak, and it would be necessary to add cannibalism to his malfeasances, or to change tack and have him turn out to be a woman, as butch as butch could be. But we must eschew such giddy trash, for we are trying to write a serious novel (oh, didn't I mention that?), and such monkeyshines would not fit our elevated art.

One of the very few sensible things I have ever done in my life was not to try to be a novelist. (Well, I did try, starting with short stories, but I have described elsewhere my ignominious failure to get anything published.) My fundamental handicap would always be my lack of the fiction writer's imagination: if I had set out to

construct a Maxwell look-alike, the very best I could have managed would have been to follow every step of the real figure, so that my readers would on one page find an astounding tale of selling the same shares twice over, and on another the shocking revelation of the theft by our curpurse of the firm's pension fund, and I rather think that by about page 27 they would be demanding their money back.

But, you see, the professionals are not much better off. They too face the difficulty of showing Maxwell plain while making the character incredible or too threadbare: where do they go from there? They could have a stab at it, I suppose, in the manner of Dickens, who was at his best when delineating grotesques, but no novelist set such a task could do it without cynicism adulterating his ink, something

that Dickens would find abhorrent, and that would surely rule out *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Oliver Twist*, *Big Game*, *Pick-pocket Papers*, *Oliver Mutual Fund*, *David Copperbottom* or *Great Expectations*.

Some possibilities have to be ruled out at once, for instance a romantic novel, Maxwell the dashing hero with a wife for the ladies, his deprecation turning out to be of the Robin Hood kind — taking from the wicked banks and giving to the *Mirror* pension fund — would lack verisimilitude.

Even more difficult would be the task of those trying to emulate Dostoevsky by giving Maxwell a soul with which to wrestle even as he forges another cheque; but although Dostoevsky could make a wonderfully vivid cameo out of Joe Haines, no lesser genius could do it, or even, perhaps, want to.

I novels won't do, what about the stage? Have a recollection of seeing a play, many years ago, based on the life of Ivar Kreuger (probably the biggest businessman now until Maxwell), and I think that I found it convincing. That would not be surprising: the drama can be far less subtle than the novel and get away with it. Well, Tom Stoppard was complaining the other day that he couldn't think of an idea for a play, and I made a note to go round and kick him vigorously in the shins until he screamed for mercy and got down to work.

That said, there is always the O. Henry form of fiction, with the twist in the tail. The one was real; I heard it myself. One hour after Maxwell's body had been found, Brenda Dean, head of the printers' union — *think fugaces* — was interviewed on radio. She was asked if she thought he had deliberately jumped into the sea. She demurred and the interviewer said "But he was under great stress and strain — might not his troubles have led him to drown himself?" "No, no," she said, "he loved to stress and strain, it was his talent — why, he could walk on water."

P.S. Hal Stoppard tells me he is at work on a play, *Max*, presumably about Maxwell.

...and moreover CRAIG BROWN



Continuing my exclusive review of the major events of next year:

May 27. Kenneth Baker MP falls head-first into a sewer. "This was planned long ago," he maintains as he emerges, "and the results are entirely in line with expectations. We are absolutely delighted with the success of this operation, and I congratulate all concerned."

June 14. Film director Michael Winner's first excursion into children's entertainment with a new version of *Thomas the Tank Engine* gets a rough ride from the critics. They complain that nowhere in the original did the Reverend Awdry suggest that Thomas was permanently armed with a Colt 45, an anti-tank bazooka and a selection of infrared homing devices, and that the inclusion of Saddam Hussein and the Iraqis in *Thomas's Revenge: The Final Conflict* is out of keeping with the spirit of the original. Winner attacks his critics for living in the past, and demands a more considered reaction to his next movie, a reworking of a Disney children's classic, *101 Rotmellers* is to open in July.

July 5. Having run the full gamut of problems from baby-battering to compulsive sandwich-eating during its first five years, the *Kilroy* programme concentrates its attention on the problem of being without a problem. "Now, Jan, I believe you haven't had a problem for over six months," whispers Kilroy sympathetically to one of his

guests. "That must have been very, very hard to cope with. Were there moments when you felt you just couldn't carry on? Tell us about it, love. Deep breath, there now."

August 18. As a high street alternative to the Body Shop, the Nobody Shop opens in an out of the way spot, selling lotions to help keep you unnoticed, all of them guaranteed tested on animals. To keep the morale of staff low, the management encourages half an hour's slouching before work and offers associated day-courses in brooding and random snapping.

August 31. The fifth volume of Tony Benn's *Diaries* is published, its 556 pages covering the morning of June 17, 1985. It opens: "Today, I wrote my diary..."

September 4. An Eighties nostalgia boom is heralded by a repeat of a Channel 4 discussion of the greenhouse effect, a spate of shoulder-padded parties and more than a hundred people massing in Hyde Park wearing novelty masks of TV-am presenter Mike Morris. In a related incident, police condemn an attempt by one man to live on a single plate of nouvelle cuisine for two hours, a prank which inevitably ends in tragedy.

October 17. In a brief press release, Harold Brodsky, the American writer who took 27 years to complete his first novel, *The Runaway Soul*, announces that he has embarked on a second novel, *The Stay-at-Home*

Heel, scheduled for publication early in 2017. Brodsky began writing this press release in March, 1985. Insiders say it was delayed for six months while he inserted an extra comma, and a further six months while it was deleted.

November 3. Prime Minister Neil Kinnock denies a Tory charge that his first six months in Number 10 have been characterised by verbosity. "I deny and wholly reject, reject and repudiate that claim, charge or accusation, and moreover I utterly disagree with it," he says, "as well as opposing and condemning it in the strongest, most thorough and toughest manner or way open or accessible to myself and my colleagues and associates."

December 24. In a surprise announcement from Finland, Santa Claus declares he will not be delivering presents this year. City observers blame this on the January takeover of his reindeer delivery service by British Telecom, heralded by the company at the time as "a safeguard for the international reputation of Santa Claus". British Telecom rejects allegations that it has curtailed the activities of Mr Claus for purely financial reasons. "The public prefers a more modern, 21st-century approach," claims a spokesman. "In future, Mr Claus will be faxing all his Christmas messages during the leaner summer period. May I add that the public response to this initiative has been very positive?"

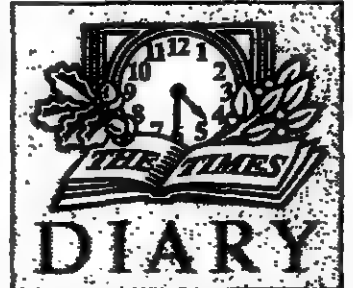
House of troubles

THE NEW YEAR will bring no respite to the beleaguered Royal Opera House. After John Dew's production of *Les Huguenots* last year gave the House its biggest critical disaster in years, Covent Garden is to reward him with two new plum productions.

No announcement has been made, but the *Diary* has learnt that Dew has been approached to stage a new production of *The Magic Flute* and the little-known *La Juive* by Jacques Halévy. Dew's production of *Les Huguenots* provoked boos, catcalls and cries of "rubbish" from the audience in November. Despite scathing criticism, Paul Findlay, Covent Garden's director of opera, who is due to leave the job next year and who recommended Dew's production, insisted that he "stood by" his choice, but few believed that Dew would work at the house again.

There is also the prospect of holes appearing in next season's programme planning. One of the centrepieces was hoped to be *Porgy and Bess*, an important production for Covent Garden as a counter to accusations of Elitism. But the additional costs, including the Gershwin estate's stipulation of a black cast, may jeopardise the production.

On top of that, Luciano Pavarotti has been signed up to sing five performances of *Tosca*, but since he blighted the house with two cancellations last year, Jeremy Isaacs and his staff must be reduced to touching wood. And if he does appear, will the crash diet he has just undertaken have an adverse effect upon the sublime voice? Many in the world of opera say that after Maria Callas lost weight she never sounded so powerful again.



● The town George Orwell described as "one of the most god-forsaken places I have ever struck" has belatedly decided to forgive its sternest critic. Hayes in Middlesex is planning a festival to celebrate Orwell's 60th birthday. The author was, of course, born in 1903 as Eric Blair, but he first adopted his nom-de-plume when teaching in the town in 1932. Fred Bennett, one of the organisers, says: "Yes, he was rather rude about Hayes, but all is forgiven. He never knew that what he said would be published. I'm sure he would have watered it down a bit otherwise. After all, this is effectively the birthplace of George Orwell."

Sale storming

SHOPPERS who stormed Harrods for the opening of its sale yesterday were greeted by a large canvas depicting an even more famous storming: the Bolshevik attack on the Tsar's palace in St Petersburg in 1917.

With the Soviet Union now part of history, it has apparently become safe to commemorate the bloody and violent moment of communism's triumph within the portals of high capitalism: pride of place in the store's Georgian restaurant has been given to a huge painting. *The Storming of the*

Winter Palace by the Russian artist Anatoli Kazantsev.

So large is the canvas that it had to be removed from its frame and rolled up in order to get it through the door. But Harrods will not make a penny from the £40,000 asking price, which has not been reduced for the sale. Proceeds will go to the Royal Marsden Cancer Appeal.

People like US

ONLY the ticker-tape was missing as American pizzazz and swagger hit the new year celebrations on the streets of London yesterday. To the astonishment of bargain-hunters in the new year sales, cheerleaders from all over America



danced and sang their way along Piccadilly and Oxford Street to Elvis Presley hits. It was all part of the Lord Mayor of Westminster's new year parade, and it certainly made the American tourists feel at home. Sheri Clasko, from Deep River, Connecticut, said: "It could have been the streets of New York with all the razzmatazz. It's great to see London adopting our style." Behind the cheerleaders came the bands, which then headed down to the Albert Hall for what was said to be the biggest perfor-

mance in its history at least in terms of number of performers on stage, some 2,500. The band, the Kroy from Czechoslovakia, spent 48 hours driving across Europe to get there.

Is anybody listening?

SCOTTISH TELEVISION has decided to increase its Gaelic output. With the injection of an extra £9.5 million in government cash, the company plans to increase its 36 hours of Gaelic transmissions last year to 300 hours by 1993. There is just one problem: it cannot find any actors who speak the language. As a result courses in Gaelic are now being offered by Scottish Television to "experienced professional actors, who are keen to learn Gaelic". But if the station cannot find Gaelic-speaking actors, is it finding Gaelic-listening audiences? The Scottish Office, which has put up the cash, is adamant that people are watching. "There is great enthusiasm for it. Lots of people like it," insists a spokesman. Others remain unconvinced. BBC Radio Scotland reports that when its Gaelic broadcasts go out, listening figures slump.

● As Madrid enjoyed its first day of its year as European City of Culture, the Irish launched an enquiry into why Dublin's year, which ended at midnight on Tuesday, was such a flop. The Irish prime minister, Charles Haughey, says it "won the city international recognition". Unfortunately it was almost entirely unrecognised in the city itself. A report by the consultants Irish Economic Advisers says that more than 90 per cent of Dubliners were unaware of their city's role as cultural capital. Fewer than 5 per cent could identify a single event associated with it.



NATIONS UNITED

Boutros Boutros Ghali takes office as Secretary General of the United Nations at a time when the organisation's authority, effectiveness and international reputation stand at their highest. His predecessor, the dogged, quiet-spoken Javier Perez de Cuellar, has bequeathed to him an institution that only now is beginning to live up to the dreams of its progenitors. Yesterday's news that Cyrus Vance has at last secured the agreement of both Serbs and Croats to the UN peace plan for Yugoslavia is a welcome beginning to Dr Boutros Ghali's term of office, just as the peace accord his predecessor negotiated for El Salvador on Tuesday is a fitting tribute to a man who served the world community more effectively than any of the big powers imagined when they confirmed him into office a decade ago.

The imminent dispatch of 10,000 peace-keeping troops to Yugoslavia underlines the fact that even in the most intractable conflicts, the UN now wields considerable clout. The world body so long derided as cumbersome and hamstringing by bureaucracy appears to be on the verge of success just as the European Community, attempting a task that always looked beyond its competence, has virtually given up trying to negotiate yet another ceasefire between the warring Serbs and Croats.

But it is not only in Yugoslavia that the UN is being asked to broker an end to hostilities, separate the combatants and feed, clothe and shelter the victims of war and famine. Since the conference in Geneva that led to the pull-out of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the UN has been at the heart of peace-making and peace-keeping around the world. In Cambodia it has already embarked on its most ambitious mission since the Congo. In Cyprus Dr Boutros Ghali may make the breakthrough that long frustrated his predecessor. In Somalia the UN is being asked to end a bloodbath, and in western Sahara it is devising a referendum to replace a guerrilla struggle.

There are of course still areas where suspicions are so intense, such as the Middle East, or where conflicts are so bound up with national sovereignty, such as Sri Lanka, East

Timor and Northern Ireland, that the UN has been denied any peace-making role. Significantly, however, calls have grown for the world body to intervene in all of them. The Gulf war was the clearest example of the UN's new vitality. The Security Council's determination to use the rusty instruments devised by its founders to repel aggression and the defence paid to it by the United States and the Western allies in the escalation of the political confrontation have been taken as evidence of the international community's new faith in the UN as the guardian of world peace. The reason, however, has little to do with Iraq. It has everything to do with President Gorbachev and the end of the Cold War.

It is almost three years since the former Soviet leader declared his country's willingness to pay all its UN debts, cooperate more closely with New York and use UN machinery more fully. He was as good as his word: Moscow quickly undercut the posturing of third world countries which believed that ditched accusations of western imperialism would win them spurious progressive credentials, communist aid and international solidarity. The built-in anti-American majority was thus rapidly cut back. This in turn revived lagging American faith in a body it had begun to despise. The stage was set for a new authority in New York.

It is now up to Dr Boutros Ghali to use this authority in a world still racked by warfare, famine and the threat of instability and political extremism. He was not the first choice of most members, and will have to work energetically to overcome lingering suspicions that he is too old, too bland and too lacking in international stature for the job. But he will only be as good as the support he is given. John Major, despite his well-publicised impatience at UN dithering over the Kurds, has shown that Britain, at least, is committed to a continuing increase in UN authority. Using the advantage of its permanent seat and a formidable shrewd and energetic representative in New York, Britain could give Dr Ghali the decisive support he will need to make his mark. He, and the UN, deserve no less.

WRITS GALORE

The late Robert Maxwell was a leading patron of the legal profession. His writs were not so much served as sprayed. Those he sued ranged from Private Eye to the Department of Trade and Industry. Yet he rarely pursued a case through to a jury verdict, relying upon the "threat" of the writ to close to the truth for his comfort. His success in this tactic revealed serious defects in the British law of libel and the way it operates.

What most aroused his litigious anger was any reference to the report of the Department of Trade and Industry in 1977 which had declared him "not a person who can be relied upon to exercise proper stewardship of a publicly quoted company". This presidential judgment was made by Sir Ronald Leach, a distinguished accountant, and Sir Owen Sable, a no less distinguished commercial lawyer who became a High Court judge. Thanks to Maxwell's writs, their words — which had privileged protection against action for libel — were far less widely known than they should have been. Though repetition of their conclusion was also privileged unless shown to be done with deliberate malice, Maxwell was often quick to accuse his opponents of this.

Once a writ for defamation and statement of claim has been served — which takes little effort or cost — the burden of proof immediately switches to the defendant to construct as strong a defence as possible — which takes a great deal of both. These procedural rules were not intended to offer a litigant a range of delaying or bullying tactics, but Maxwell became an expert at manipulating them that way.

If he was master of the abuse of legal process, most of the reforms needed to defeat such devices should be reforms of procedure too. A committee under Lord Justice Neill, which reviewed the law of defamation at the request of the Lord Chancellor, reported earlier this year with sensible, though perhaps overcautious, proposals for reform. To the Neill proposals should be added

innovations in defamation law from other countries with a common law tradition, such as Ireland and Australia.

In the aftermath of Maxwell's disgrace, America's libel laws have been held out as superior to Britain's, on the grounds that they would have made publication of "damaging" statements a sharp practice, far easier. So they would. But American libel laws go too far the other way: the requirement on the plaintiff to prove actual malice on the part of the defendant is too onerous.

Less drastically, the Irish Law Reform Commission has recently proposed that writs not proceed with after a period of six or 12 months should automatically be struck out. That would bring a better balance to the opening skirmishes in a libel action, and make it harder to use a writ to gag a legitimate journalistic investigation.

An even better example to follow would be that from Australia, where qualified privilege is being introduced in cases where defamatory allegations are made in good faith, in the public interest, and after "reasonable" enquiries. When they inadvertently go wrong, newspapers will be expected to correct the record promptly. Such a new defence against libel would reduce the measure of uncertainty which faces publishers and editors now, encouraging both excessive caution by journalists and the tactics of intimidation by those with something to hide.

At present, given the capriciousness of modern libel law and the vagueness of the law, no lawyer would advise a client that victory was certain, however good the defence. A lost case and large damages could mean ruin for a medium-sized media business. Such unpredictability forced investigative journalists to take Maxwell's threats seriously. But a well balanced law of libel should not only save the innocent from calumny: it must also protect anybody whose job is to expose the guilty. Hatred, ridicule and contempt is their due and the law should not shield them from it.

WOMEN IN THE FAST LANE

Beware extrapolation. A few cold winters do not denote an imminent Ice Age. Yet scientists are too often tempted to assume that if a line on a graph points in one direction, it will continue to do so for ever. Two scientists from the University of California now claim that men are losing their ascendancy over women on the athletics track and will be overtaken by the middle of the next century. They draw this conclusion from looking at the speeds men and women have reached since the 1920s. Because women's speeds have increased twice as fast as men's, they argue that by 1998, women should be beating men at the marathon and later at shorter distances too.

There are any number of reasons why women should have improved faster than men, from less cumbersome clothing through later child-bearing to the greater social acceptability of their competing in sport. Seventy years ago, few women would have dared venture on to the athletics track, while sport for men has always been a noble pursuit. As more women have taken part in sport, so has their training been taken more seriously. They were bound to narrow the gap with their brethren.

But can women ever pip men to the post? Only in a very few events. Women already compete equally with men on horseback, where skill is more important than brute strength. But on the track, women's bodies

only prove the equal of men's at distances far longer than the marathon, where their famous capacity for endurance comes into play. Women simply have more stamina. Female babies are more likely to survive than boys; more women came out of concentration camps alive than men. As Dr Craig Sharp of the British Olympic Medical Institute says, "If Scott of the Antarctic had been a woman, she might have made it."

Some women will always be able to outrun some men, just as Billie Jean King could beat Bobby Riggs, a triple Wimbledon winner who unwisely boasted that no woman could thrash him on the court. But the fastest women will never match the fastest men simply because speed at running comes down eventually to muscular strength, and men's bodies, at their best, are stronger than women's.

This is good news for women, not bad, for it allows them to race on a level athletics field. If they were expected to compete against men, they would be deemed a success only when they beat men. Far better for them to attempt to become the fastest females to run a mile than to try to be the fastest human beings at that distance and inevitably fail. Women can be proud of their athletic achievements without feeling overshadowed by men. The honest, after all, would be outflown by a sparrow, but she is still queen of the jungle.

Dilemma over devaluation of sterling

From Sir Peter Hordern, MP for Horsham (Conservative)

Sir, You believe that Britain should devalue sterling against the Deutschmark and other European currencies (leading article, December 30). You believe we should do so because you think that the Bundesbank raised interest rates as part of a power struggle between the Bundesbank and the German government which is nothing to do with us. You also think Britain first joined the exchange-rate mechanism at the wrong rate.

As to the second reason, sterling did not appear uncompetitive with the DM before we joined the ERM, and it does not appear out of line now. But, whatever the political motive may have been, there is no question but that the German financial deficit is already large and is growing fast.

Of course, it would have been better and much more convenient if the German government were to raise taxes to reduce the deficit. But if taxes are not raised, then it seems perverse to blame the Bundesbank for doing what it is there to do.

Thanks to careful management, we have a rather small general government deficit at present, and in prospect. That being so, there is no internal reason to raise interest rates. In time, perhaps after the election has removed the threat of a Labour government, financial markets may well come to recognise that our smaller deficit makes sterling relatively rather attractive compared with the DM, so that sterling should strengthen within the ERM, even to the extent that we may be able to reduce interest rates still further.

But that is not the position at the moment. What would happen if we were to devalue? If by a small amount, then how long would that last in view of all the assurances that have been given? If by a large amount, then what is there to prevent business and industry returning to their bad old ways, paying whatever salaries are demanded, in the knowledge that the government will accommodate them by devaluing the currency again?

Devaluation is no easy solution, as we have come to know, after many years. As First Lord of the Treasury, Mrs Thatcher took us into the ERM, perhaps rather late, but certainly to show that we were serious about curbing inflation, rather than through enthusiasm for any European ideal.

That decision still holds good. It is not necessary to mount a conspiracy theory about Germany to induce us to abandon the best guarantee of non-inflationary growth, which remains our membership of the ERM at the present rate of exchange. It may be hard, but in the long run it is right.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HORDERN,
House of Commons,
December 30.

From Mr W. E. Abbotts

Sir, "Cabinet refuses to be panicked," says your headline today (later editions), before quoting Mr Major: "We are now seeing the first signs of recovery, and all forecasts expect to see the economy growing again in the coming year" (as in 1991). This is the stuff of Dad's Army, Corporal Jones speaking.

Scots scotched

From Sir Olive Russell

Sir, I was delighted to read your report ("Auld tongue gets new prestige", December 18) that the professor of English at Edinburgh University intends to set up a Scottish language course next year. Can the shades of William Dunbar, Gavin Douglas, David Lindsay et al be hovering over the Scottish Education Department, after 120 years of apathy?

The Education Act of 1872 practically obliterated the Scottish language. Efforts made by the Vernacular Circle of the Burns Club of London in the 1920s, petitioning the Scottish Office to institute a chair of Scottish literature and language in one of the older Scottish universities, were ignored.

Now, 70 years later, Glasgow has produced eight graduates (of whom I am one), with more in the pipeline, and Edinburgh is evidently going to follow suit. The proposals would have delighted the original council of the Vernacular Circle. The riches pawned in 1707 are being redeemed at last!

Yours sincerely,
OLIVE RUSSELL,
4 The Gardens,
West Harrow, Middlesex.

From Mr T. V. Edwards

Sir, If Scots is a "living language, with a rich and complex literature", as your leading article affirms (December 19), what description would best fit the more vibrant Welsh language? Ironically, although spoken by hundreds of thousands in Wales (and spoken in what is now Scotland some 1,500 years ago), it still has to fight for its continued existence.

What it needs, obviously, is the imprimatur of *The Times*: in the form of an editorial, please?

Yours faithfully,
T. V. EDWARDS,
19A Heol y Coed,
Rhiwbina, Cardiff 4,
December 19.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Need for inter-faith understanding

From the Provost of Birmingham

Sir, I am so afraid that rising tensions, exclusions and declarations in the inter-faith debate will stifle all dialogue and progress in understanding between religious communities here in the inner cities.

I am reminded of the work of R. C. Zaehner, who divided the world's living faiths into two main families: the prophetic and the mystical. The prophetic faiths are those which claim that God has intervened directly into human affairs, and for whom revelation is a primary category of thinking: they are Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The mystical faiths are those which start from humanity searching for the ultimate and the absolute, among the most important would be Hinduism and Buddhism. Needless to say, the mystical faiths have a far less blood-stained history than the prophetic.

The world is urgently in need of more theological study of world religions. In Britain, I feel, the subject is still not quite respectable as mainstream; the theologians in the United States and Germany see the needs more clearly.

Christians have a duty to enter the theological dialogue in the spirit of Vatican II, a sort of "committed openness". There is certainly nothing to fear: to share dialogue with people from another faith who have transparent goodness and kindness and joy with deep spirituality can only be strengthening and encouraging.

We do need a very special attitude for Christian/Muslim understanding. We have to overcome more than 1,000 years of polemic, distortion and prejudice. We forget the debt to Islamic scholars of pre-Renaissance and we only remember the bloodshed of the Crusades. We must not relive the past.

Vatican II urged Christians and Muslims "to forget the past and to strive sincerely for mutual understanding. On behalf of all mankind let them make common cause of safeguarding and fostering social justice, moral values, peace and freedom".

I am sorry that the writers of the open letter protesting against inter-faith worship (report, December 9; letters, December 16, 18) could not take up this challenge. The letter was

unnecessary, slightly hysterical and expensive. If the signatories cannot enter the theological debate, perhaps they could address themselves to the lost sheep of the Church of England.

Yours sincerely,
PETER BERRY,
Birmingham Cathedral,
Colmore Row, Birmingham 3,
December 30.

From Archdeacon Derek Hayward

Sir, Clifford Longley (December 21) is mistaken if he supposes that the Christian claim to uniqueness is based on Christ's teachings, which can be largely paralleled in other world religions. On the contrary, it is based on the person of Christ himself, who is unique because he alone has provided a way of understanding suffering which answers to the human condition.

What the Church uniquely has to offer is incorporation into the redemptive death and the risen life of Christ, and this is normally to be looked for in worship with others who seek it too. For centuries the Roman Church claimed that this was only possible through her own worship; recently she has somewhat relaxed this claim, but such relaxation cannot be extended to worship in other faiths, for the simple reason that this is not its object.

This is not to say that other faiths do not have insights which are latent or lacking in Christianity, and we may have much to learn from them; but the Cross of Christ and its power of redemptive suffering are unique, and we compromise them at our peril.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK HAYWARD,
The Vicarage, 61 Church Street,
Isleworth, Middlesex,
December 22.

From Mr E. H. Campion

Sir, Mr Longley has some urgent homework to do. Ecumenicalism has not yet reached the point where a Christian may, without risk of rebuke, wish a Jew a Happy New Year on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

Yours faithfully,
E. H. CAMPION,
8 Lawn Crescent, Richmond, Surrey,
December 21.

In David's city

From Mr and Mrs Mike Moorhouse

Sir, Mr J. D. Ward (letter, December 24) calls for a revision of "Once in royal David's city". As city-centre dwellers who have suffered from Christmas from over-turned rubbish bins, trails of smashed bottles and damaged walls caused by 14-28-year-olds brought up in these self-expressive times, we think that this country would be a much happier place if not only children but adults, too, accepted Christ's standards of being "mild, obedient and good".

Christ's obedience was obedience to the dictates of right and wrong, and learning to tolerate and give way to the rights of other people. It does not mean being soft: he turned the money-changers out of the temple in obedience to his Father.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE MOORHOUSE,
41 Burghley Road,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

From Mr Derek Palmer

Sir, All things considered, I would rather have children who are "mild, obedient and good" than "the nervous, twisting, wistful, pathetic, centreless children we are cursed with: or the fat and self-satisfied, sheep-in-the-pasture children who are becoming more common: or the impudent, I'm-as-good-as-anybody smirking children who are far too numerous".

This was written in the third decade of the century by D. H. Lawrence in a long essay, "Education of the people", which should be read at least once a year by all those seriously interested in education and the bringing up of children.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK PALMER,
Millside, Haslam's Lane,
Darley Abbey, Derby.

From Miss D. Meyerhof

Sir, If there has to be change, what about "selfless, caring, kind as He"? Yours etc.,
D. MEYERHOF,
27 Kathleen Godfree Court,
80 Queens Road, SW19.

Not so silent

From Mr Andrew Sewell

Sir, Peter Barnard ("Nights are silent, now we lack this Hardy perennial", Christmas Eve) would find no "silent night" in this village.

The combined churches choir toured the village on several nights for Christmas Aid. The village band, descended from the church musicians evicted when an organ was installed well over 150 years ago, called here and elsewhere on Christmas Eve with our favourite carol; it then serenaded the village, starting at 4am this morning with "Christians awake" and continuing until the church bells rang out at 7am.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SEWELL,
Bay House,
Aldbourne, Wiltshire,
December 25.

Laws of disorder

From Mrs Martin Platt

Sir, Platt's first law of disorder (letters, December 24, 28) states that the telephone rings the moment one has entered the lavatory.

Yours truly,
BELINDA PLATT,
Ty Newydd, Nantmor,
Caernarfon, Gwynedd.

National TV archive

From the Director of the British Film Institute

Sir, Alvin Rakoff's letter (December 26) was a timely reminder of how much has been lost of our early BBC television heritage. Unfortunately, we also have to accept that most of the early ITV arts and drama has been lost, in addition to priceless current affairs and news coverage.

However, things are getting better. The BBC has a royal charter responsibility to maintain an archive of its programmes, and does so through its film and video programme library.

The British Film Institute has been archiving key examples of our television since the early 1950s, and in more recent times has been funded by the ITV companies, and by Channel 4, to record approximately 25 per cent of their output. Although this sounds a low figure, in practice it means that most original British production is being archived, and kept in appropriate conditions.

With the passing of the 1990 Broadcasting Act, these voluntary arrangements — ironically, with the exception of Channel 4 — are to be made statutory from January 1, 1993 (and will extend to Channel 5, though not to BSkyB). Also during 1990 we signed an agreement to record the complete output of BBC1 and BBC2, for access purposes.

We therefore have the basis for a National Television Archive, which we are anxious to maintain and extend, as well as to provide access to it — for example through the regional film archives, and the development of videotapes and of the successful programme of archive television screenings at the Museum of the Moving Image.

I am delighted to hear that some hitherto "lost" television programmes may still be in existence, and I appeal to Mr Rakoff and his colleagues to contact us and to deposit the material they hold, which will find a safe home with us.

Yours faithfully,
WILF STEVENSON, Director,
British Film Institute,
21 Stephen Street, W1,
December 27.

Son of a gun?

From Mrs Sally Holloway

Sir, Your customary, fascinating report (January 1) on popular first names must, of necessity, fail to include some of the more esoteric "monikers" borne by today's children. Confronted by two diminutive Cockney carol singers last week, I handed out the traditional doorstep fare and asked their names.

"I'm Jason," said the elder, "e's Wess." "Ah!" I said, "as in John Wesley?" "Nah!" came the rightly scornful reply, "Wess as in Wesson — Smif an' Wesson."

Yours truly,
SALLY HOLLOWAY,
95 Lonsdale Road, Barnes, SW13,
January 1.

Sports letters, page 22
Business letters, page 29

SOCIAL NEWS

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.N. Anderson
and Miss M.E. McGahan
The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr and Mrs J.F. Anderson, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and Mary, daughter of Mr J.H.P. McGahan, MBE, and Mrs McGahan, of Burgess Hill, West Sussex.

Mr T.H.A. Barton
and Miss F.J. Hamilton
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs T.H. Barton, of West Leake, Leicestershire, and Jane, daughter of Dr and Mrs H. Hamilton, of Heppscott, Morpeth, Northumberland.

Mr M.J.M. Bennett
and Miss C.A.M. Halford
The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Dr and Mrs P.M.J. Bennett, of Pierpoint House, Pyrford Woods, Woking, Surrey, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs F.L. Halford, of 40 London Road, Guildford, Surrey.

Mr E.M.R. Edwards
and Miss G. Greenwood
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Timothy Edwards, of Upton Bishop, Herefordshire, and Gillian, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Greenwood, of Otley, West Yorkshire.

Mr N.R. Elliot
and Miss S.J. Anderson
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs K. Elliot, of Ampleforth, North Yorkshire, and Sarah, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs D. Anderson, Skelton, York.

Mr D.A. Eason
and Miss L.M. Melconian
The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mrs Rhona Eason and the late Lieutenant A.F. Eason, RN, of Mill Hill, London, and Lucille Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs L.M. Melconian, also of Mill Hill, London.

Mr G.N.M. Lawton
and Miss K.M. Platt
The engagement is announced between Giles, elder son of Dr and Mrs R.M. Lawton, of Cumnor Hill, Oxford, (formerly of East Horsley) and Katie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Adrian Platt, of East Horsley, Surrey.

Mr J.S. Mosell
and Miss C.C. Short
The engagement is announced between Joseph Sams, younger son of the late Mr Frederick C. Mosell, Jr, and of Mrs Mosell, of Rosemont, Pennsylvania, USA, and Claudia Charlotte, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Sams, of Scane Park, Ashburton, Devon, and St Antonin-Noble-Val, France.

Mr M.A. Norman
and Miss S.J. Fenwick
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr J.T. Norman, of Branksome, Dorset, and Mrs A.E. Norman, of London N11, and Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.T. Fenwick, of Chipping Warden, Banbury, Oxon.

Mr S. Rieunier
and Miss H. Brownie
The engagement is announced between Sylvain, younger son of Prof and Mme Maurice Rieunier, of Grenoble, France, and Helen, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs John Brownie, of Ballycassidy, Co Fermanagh, Ireland.

Mr F.J.D. Somerville-Cotton
and Miss D.A. Lax
The engagement is announced between Fabian, elder son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs G.J. Somerville-Cotton, of Atworth, Wiltshire, and Deborah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs C.E. Lax, of Montreal, Canada.

Mr A.J. Taylor
and Miss C.F. Varian
The engagement is announced between Alistair James, son of Dr and Mrs F.R. Taylor, of Silsoe, Bedfordshire, and Caroline Frances, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.B.R. Varian, of Castor, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

Mr D.J.M. Taylor
and Miss S.E. Carroll
The engagement is announced between David, son of the late Mr Philip Taylor and Mrs Barbara Taylor, of Freshwater, Norfolk, and Sarah Elizabeth, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs D.H. Carroll, of Hyde, Cheshire.

Mr R.C.M. de Vahl Rubin
and Miss V.P.H. Talbot Rice
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr Mark de Vahl Rubin and the late Mrs Hilary Rubin, of Baywater, London, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Talbot Rice, of Barnfield House, Cowfold, Sussex.

Mr A.M. Vincent
and Miss E.J. Corfield
The engagement is announced between Andrew Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs R. Vincent, of Arpling, Kent, and Emma Jane, eldest daughter and daughter of Mr and Mrs T.G. Coggin, of Bures St Mary, Suffolk.

Mr D.G. Yates
and Miss N.M.L. Hunt
The engagement is announced between Duncan Guy, younger son of Mr Rodney Yates, of Marlham, Peterborough, and Mrs Arthur Collins, of Great Sampford, Essex, and Nicola May Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Howard Hunt, of Kensington, London.

Birthdays today

Professor Isaac Asimov, author, 72; Mr David, photographer, 54; Mr N.H. Barling, chairman, Commercial Union Assurance, 58; Sir Richard Baylis, former Physician to the Queen, 75; Mr Leopold Brook, former chairman, Associated Nuclear Services, 80; Mr Christopher Campbell, chairman, British Shipbuilders, 56; the Duke of Devonshire, 72; Professor Sir Kingsley Dunham, geologist, 82; Mr Walter Harrison, former MP, 71; Miss Hilary Heilbrun, QC, 43; Sir Anthony Lincoln, diplomat, 81; Mr Doug McAvoy, trades unionist, 53; Lord Nelson of Stafford, 75; Mr D.B. Pamphill, governor, Bank of Scotland, 54; Sir Charles Reece, former group research and technology director, ICI, 65; Mr Edmund de Roth-

schild, former chairman, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 76; the Earl of St Germain, 51; Air Marshal Sir Ernest Sides, 79; Sir Keith Thomas, president, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, 59; Sir Michael Topp, OM, CH, composer, 87; Dame Rachel Waterhouse, former chairman, Consumers' Association, 69; the Right Rev Kenneth Woodhouse, former Bishop of Oxford, 68.

Marriage

Mr R.B. Smith
and Mrs A.E. Hurley
The marriage took place, quietly, on Sunday, December 15, at Wetherfield, between Mr Richard Barclay Smith and Mrs Ann Elizabeth Hurley.

Anniversaries

BIRTH: Gilbert Murray, scholar, Sydney, Australia, 1866.
DEATHS: Fabian Bellingsham, Royal explorer, Russia, 1852; Alexander William Kinglake, historian of the Crimean War, London, 1891; Sir George Biddell Airy, Astronomer Royal 1836-81; Anwick, Northumberland, 1892; Sir Edward Tylor, anthropologist, Wellington, Somerset, 1917; Eleanor Rathbone, social reformer, London, 1946; Dick Powell, film actor, 1963.

Appointments

Veterinary products committee: Professor J. Armour, vice principal of Glasgow University to be chairman for a term of four years. The following have been appointed members of the committee for a term of four years: Dr N. Bateman, Dr A. Cooke and Professor R. Richards, Professor P. Meigs, Miss K. Gibson, Dr R. Heitzman, Professor G. E. Laming and Professor I. K. M. Smith have been reappointed to the committee, also for terms of four years.

Bridewell in danger

CONSERVATIONISTS are trying to save the Georgian bridewell at Wymondham, Norfolk, which inspired the first penitentiary in the United States. Parts of the building are still occupied but the magistrates court sat there for the last time on Tuesday, and new uses for the vacant rooms are being sought. A feasibility study is being prepared by the Civil Trust.

The bridewell was considered a move towards a better penal system when it opened in 1785. Underground cells were provided to keep different types of offenders apart and the sexes were segregated.

ed. Sir Thomas Beevor, the man behind the scheme, believed that solitary confinement was more effective than whipping. He also advocated hard labour as a deterrent to crime.

The concept was noticed in Philadelphia, and the Bridewell example copied widely in the United States in the late 18th century.

A part of the building was converted into a lock-up house for convicted prisoners and living quarters for a policeman in 1848. It was also used as the local police station until a new one was erected in the early 1960s.

OBITUARIES

SERGEANT-MAJOR PHIL PHILLIPS

Sergeant-Major Horace Cyril "Phil" Phillips, MBE, MVO, Welsh Guards, former sergeant-major of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and of the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard, died on Christmas Day aged 76. He was born on March 27, 1915.

THE Duke of Kent, King Husain of Jordan, nine foreign princes, two sultans and a sheikh were among the 6,000 cadets trained by Phil Phillips. When he marched off the parade ground at Sandhurst for the last time, as Academy Sergeant-Major — the most senior sergeant-major in the army — it could truly be said that he had moulded a new generation of young officers.

Phillips himself belonged to a new generation of sergeant-majors — though he might not have looked it. Well over six foot and weighing 14 stone, a former guards light-heavyweight boxing champion, he appeared every inch the traditional RSM as he lowered over his charges on the square, his boots and brasses outshining their own.

He believed in the virtues of drill, if only to teach soldiers how to react to a command, and he cultivated a resonant bellow to go with it. He argued that it was no use calling "Fire!" on the battlefield if the men had to shout back "What?" He was horrified on a visit to West Point to find the drill instructors using megaphones.

Underneath, however, Phillips was a gentle giant who never swore at or bullied his recruits. He thought seriously about his work and responsibilities. He read widely on politics and current affairs and advised all his cadets to do the same. Before being posted with his regiment overseas he would spend days studying the local situation.

Phillips was born at Chestow, Devon, into an army family. His father had served in both the Boer War and the first world war and although young Phil trained as a



buncher on leaving school, his ambition was always to sign on with the Welsh Guards. He did so in 1934 and after his first spell of public duties in London, mounting guard at Buckingham Palace, he went with his battalion to Gibraltar. When war broke out, it became the first unit of the British Expeditionary Force, sailing to Marseilles by battleship then travelling north by train.

Phillips was captured near Arras, however, during the Dunkirk retreat and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner in Poland. In *Stalag 303*, The Germans started moving their prisoners west to escape from the advancing Russians in 1945 and Phillips was one of a group who wrested control from the SS shortly before they were liberated by the Americans.

He then volunteered to return to active service and was

about to be drafted to the Far East when Japan surrendered. Instead he went with the Welsh Guards to Palestine and on return took part in the first trooping of the colour since the war. The escort to the colour was provided by the Welsh Guards 1st battalion's Prince of Wales company with Phillips as the company sergeant-major.

After postings in West Germany and Berlin he took part in the 1953 coronation, then went on his first tour of duty at Sandhurst, as regimental sergeant-major of Old College, one of the three constituent parts of the academy. He was seconded to the King's African Rifles in East Africa, then in the early 1960s returned to Sandhurst as Academy Sergeant-Major in succession to the legendary John Lord.

Colleagues warned him

that Lord would be a difficult act to follow, especially as Phillips was the first Welsh Guardsman in the job, following a long line of Grenadiers. But when Phillips retired in December 1970, marching up Old College steps after Sovereign's Parade while the band played "Auld Lang Syne" he had carved out his own place in Sandhurst history.

The army said at the time that had he accepted the chance of a commission he would probably have become a lieutenant-colonel. But he argued that while there were many lieutenant-colonels, there was only one Academy Sergeant-Major. On retirement he was offered the post of senior messenger sergeant-major of the Queen's Bodyguard, twinned with that of superintendent of St James's Palace. The first involved organising the 66-man bodyguard as its only permanent official — and parading with them in Tudor uniform and white ruff.

Already the veteran of King George VI's Silver Jubilee, George V's funeral and eight troopings of the colour, he now added a succession of state occasions, including the Prince of Wales's wedding and the annual state opening of Parliament. One of his last parades marked the bodyguard's 50th anniversary.

His other job consisted of running St James's Palace state apartments and brought with it his own apartment at the palace. After ten years, when he was 65, the Queen took the unusual step of asking him to stay on for five more years, after which he finally retired to his native Wales.

Phil Phillips was a notable rugby player in his youth, turning out as flanker for Newport, London Welsh and the army and for the Welsh Guards when they won the army cup after the war. In retirement he still played golf and worked for his local church and army charities.

He is survived by his wife Glenys, their son and two daughters.

ISTVAN VAS

István Vas, Hungarian autobiographer, translator, essayist and poet, died in Budapest on December 16 aged 81. He was born there on September 24, 1910.

ISTVÁN Vas, one of Hungary's most distinguished and learned men of letters, was most famous for his four-volume autobiography, *Nehéz szerelem* (1964-1967, "A Difficult Love"), *Miért vijog a Saskegyes?* (1981 "Why Does the Eagle Screech?") and *Azultán* (1991 "Afterwards"), a valuable behind-the-scenes guide to both inter-war and post-war Hungarian literary life, as well as to the personal mental struggles of a man of integrity and liberal sensibility to adjust to a difficult environment. Vas won Hungary's leading literary prize, the Kossuth, twice.

Born into a Jewish family, Vas reluctantly pursued a business career until 1945, when he went into publishing with all its extreme vicissitudes, owing to the intrusion of semi-literate Stalinist culture-clerks into what was "correct" or otherwise. He threaded his way through these sinister labyrinths with tact and honour, turning his own genius for some long time to translation, that com-

mon refuge of liberals trapped by the restrictions imposed by the post-war Russian empire. Among his most remarkable translations are those from Villon (1940), Apollinaire (1940), the English metaphysical poets (1946) and from Shakespeare, Racine, O'Neill and Maeterlinck. It is in these and in his majestic autobiography that Vas showed his capacities most clearly.

Vas came first under the influence of the aggressive avant garde artistic poet Lajos Kassák, whose real heyday had been in the years of the first world war and just after. Now a rather isolated, if still powerful, figure who had spent six years of exile in Vienna, on account of his part in the communist coup, he ran the magazine *Munka* (1928-39), as an alternative to the more conservative mainstream *Nyugat* ("West") of Mihály Babits and his circle. This had been running since the first decade of the century. Kassák, whose step-daughter Vas married in 1936, ran *Munka* as an experimental alternative to *Nyugat*, and influenced Vas in the deliberate biculturalism of his first collection of poems, *Őszi Romok* (1932, "Autumn Destruction"), which,

nevertheless, clearly showed his classical leanings. Later Vas turned increasingly to Babits, and ended by being regarded as a leading representative of the last phase of *Nyugat*. His poetry was somewhat self-conscious and original in its themes, and he never asserted himself as a major figure in this genre as the incomparable Endre Ady before him and Attila József just after him. However, he was a master of poetic technique — no Hungarian poet of this century could better him: "Vas," wrote a French critic, "achieved an astonishingly soft and calm tone in a paradoxically severe poetry of vast cosmic implications."

The few available translations of his work into English cannot do justice to him because of this — and also, perhaps, because they have for the most part been done from indifferent cribs supplied by professors. His most impressive and representative collection was *Ateretment világ* (1956, "The Creation"); this consists of a selection of poetry from the period 1930-1939, together with new war and post-war poems. It might be said that Vas had almost too much mastery over language, since the quality known as inspiration — the

sheer compulsion to write — does not mark his poetry as a whole.

Although he had converted to Christianity upon his marriage to Kassák's step-daughter, Vas, from the time he turned towards Babits gradually changed his religious philosophy and finally became, so far as is apparent, the kind of rationalist-humanist who found his roots mainly in medieval thinking. However, a vital strand of semi-mystical belief remained, from a figure with whom he most liked to identify himself, Nicolas of Cusa (1401-64), the German neoplatonic cardinal-philosopher who believed that truth is inaccessible to human beings, and that God can only be discovered by intuition since he exists only where "all contradictions meet".

Vas was a very distinguished essayist, especially on Hungarian subjects, and a much-prized and generous mentor to younger writers. Flashier talents who had compromised themselves of ten elapsed him in the difficult years, but he emerged into post-communism with rare credit. He was married twice more, in 1945, and then again, finally happily, in 1951.

Jaw fossil is given new date

A FOSSIL jawbone long hailed as one of the earliest human remains in Spain has been shown to be less than 50,000 years old (Norman Hammond writes). The Banyolas mandible, found in 1887 in Catalonia, has been compared with the oldest specimens of *Homo sapiens* from Europe and estimated to be at least 100,000, and perhaps a quarter of a million, years old.

Recent studies have compared it with early remains from Mauer in Germany and Arago in the Pyrenees.

Uranium-series dating of the travertine matrix in which the jaw was found, backed by analyses from other deposits in the same ancient lake bed, have yielded an age of 45,000 years ago, plus or minus 4,000 years.

The Banyolas jaw can thus be placed in the late Neanderthal age, although modern humans were also present in Europe by then.

Source: Journal of Archaeological Science 18: 707-722.

Archaeology

Britons to map ancient caravan city

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH archaeologists are to join in the exploration of one of the great caravan cities of Central Asia. Merv, in Turkmenia, has been selected by Unesco as an area of world historic importance, and scholars from the EC and Russia are taking part.

The Merv oasis, on the ancient route west from Samarkand to the Caspian, was a vital staging post on the Silk Road as well as the centre of an important farming region. The city was fought over by the Medes, Achæmenids, Seleucids and Parthians, and

their Moslem successors: one of its attractions to archaeologists is how often the settlement was rebuilt in different spots, leaving several sets of impressive ruins spread over the arid landscape. Because the principal river, the Murghab, has also shifted its course, modern Merv (now known as Mary) lies 12 miles west of the ancient walls, and cities up to 2,500 years old lie open for investigation.

"We will undertake a detailed topographic and ceramic survey to set these excavations in context," Dr

Georgina Herrman, of University College London, said. "We also plan limited excavation and a survey of standing monuments, to prepare a synthesis for publication by the city of Merv in 1995."

The British effort will be concentrated in the oldest parts of Merv: the massive circular enclosure of Erk Qala is thought to date to Achaemenid times, while about it are the walls of Giasur Qala, the rectangular plan of Antiochia in Margiana laid out by Ant-

ochus I, one of the early Seleucid successors to Alexander the Great. They were occupied until the eighth century AD and cover more than 1,000 acres.

Satellite imagery processed by computers in Paris and Boston will provide background detail for the surface mapping, while Italian, Russian and Turkmen archaeologists will work in co-operation with the London team.

"Merv was a frontier city, exposed to many different influences. This cosmopolitan life is reflected by the wide range of religious structures, including the westernmost Buddhist shrines and unique Christian and Zoroastrian buildings," Dr Herrman said. "In its greatest period of glory, the eleventh and twelfth centuries, it was the principal eastern capital of the great Seljuk Empire."

The new project will begin in August. Dr Herrman does not expect the collapse of the old Soviet Union to affect the Turkmenian government's support for the work.

Scotland will get liver unit

By KERRY GILL

SCOTLAND is to have its first liver transplant unit ending the need for patients to travel to England for transplant surgery.

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish health minister, said that the unit would be able to handle up to 50 transplants a year. At present about 25 patients go to England each year for liver transplants.

"These operations are now an established and successful part of NHS treatment. I believe there is a clear case for establishing such a service in Scotland, and I have decided to do so as soon as possible," Mr Forsyth said.

"Kidney and cornea transplants are already carried out in Scotland, as is transplantation of bone and bone marrow. Heart transplant operations will shortly begin at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. The establishment of a liver transplantation unit is a logical next step."

Health, page 9



CHARLES LEVINE

Charles A. Levine who in 1927 became the first man to fly the Atlantic non-stop as a passenger, died in Washington on December 6 aged 94. He was born in North Adams, Massachusetts, in 1897.

CHARLES Levine was almost, but not quite, a great American hero. But for an untimely quarrel which delayed the take-off of his aircraft for a few hours, the mantle which fell on Charles Lindbergh would have belonged to him and to his pilot, Clarence Chamberlain.

On May 21, 1927, both Levine's aircraft, the Columbia and Lindbergh's Spirit of St Louis, were ready for flight at Roosevelt Field on Long Island. Levine had in fact been ready for some time, and the Columbia had set a world endurance record of 51 hours the previous month. But a dispute over who should share the prize money being offered for the first transatlantic flight had led to an injunction being placed on the aircraft by the would-be co-pilot of Columbia, Lloyd Bertaud.

The injunction was lifted that afternoon, but Lindbergh had already taken off at dawn, and a frustrated Levine cancelled his own flight to Paris. Instead, he announced that he and Chamberlain would attempt to fly non-stop to Berlin on June 4.

The pair ran out of fuel

about 100 miles short of their objective, landing in the German town of Eilsleben. They had set a new world record of 3,911 miles in 43 hours of non-stop flight, flying 295 miles further than their rival. But the honours, the prize and later the tragedy, belonged to Lindbergh.

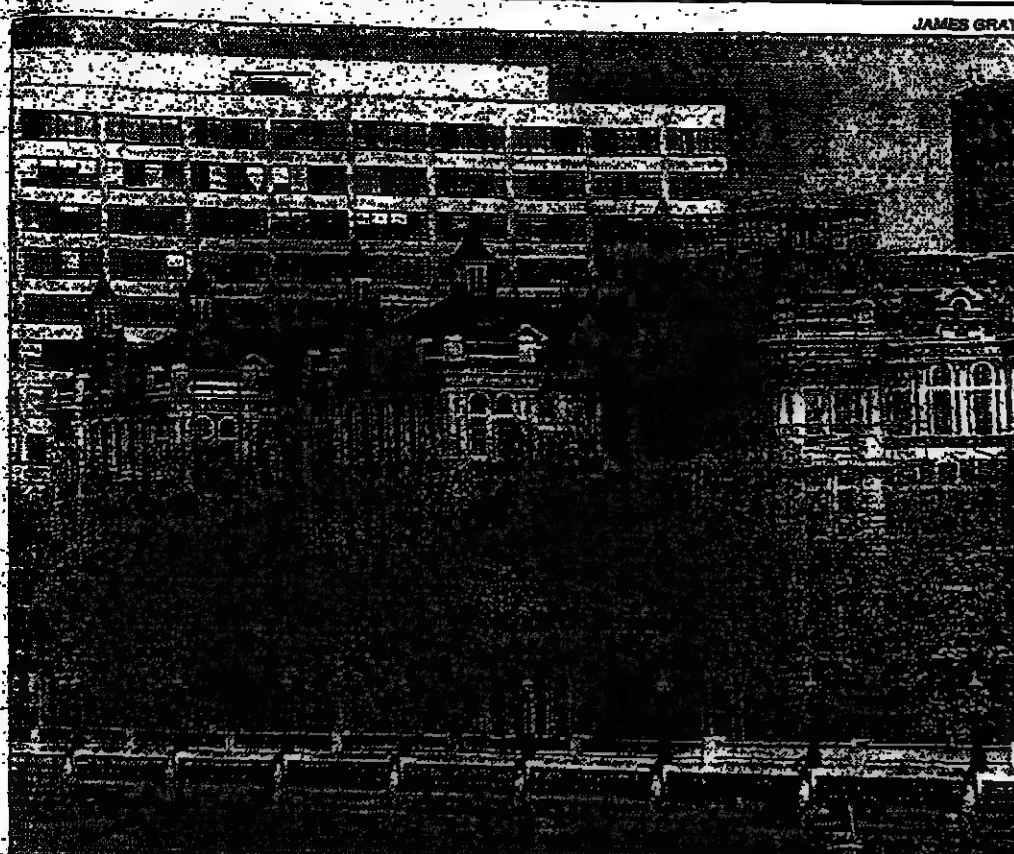
At the time of the flight, Levine was a self-made millionaire, his fortune founded on a contract with the US War Department which gave him the right to buy and dispose of spent shell casings. He had left school before graduation to help in his father's scrap metal business, and set up his own company in 1917.

He branched out into airplane manufacturing during the 1920's, and though much of his wealth was lost in the stock market crash at the end of the decade he continued to back flying adventures and spent large sums on experimental planes.

Levine fell foul of the law in 1937, when he was jailed for two years on a smuggling-conspiracy charge involving 2,000 pounds of Canadian tungsten powder. Then in 1942 he was accused of smuggling a German alien into the US from Mexico. The alien concerned was identified at the trial as a refugee from a concentration camp, but it made no difference: Levine went back to jail for 150 days.

He is survived by his daughter.

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Tower blocks: scaffolding covers the unrestored building at St Thomas's hospital

Restoration plan needs £1.5m

THE charm of the pavilions of St Thomas's hospital opposite the Houses of Parliament was first recognised by MPs who saved the chapel and three surviving blocks from grandiose 1960s redevelopment plans. West Lambeth health authority has now completed a meticulous restoration of two of the blocks, Nos 6 and 7, carefully repairing or replacing ironwork, stonework and ornamental leadwork. As a result St Thomas's is re-emerging with an Italianate skyline of cupolas and finials aspiring to the richness and intricacy of the Gothic of the Palace of Westminster opposite.

The engineers in charge of the project, the Alan Marshall Partnership, have carefully replaced like with like using old photographs and original drawings as evidence for the

Marcus Binney reports on a meticulous scheme and its money problems

decorative detail that had disappeared or been capped off. However funds have run out and John Eaton, the hospital's superintendent of works, estimates that £1.5 million is needed to do the work on the southern block, No 8. This is still shrouded in protective scaffolding and cannot be brought back into full use until roof repairs are carried out. The quality of the work already done makes St Thomas's as deserving a cause as any public building in London.

St Thomas's, founded in the twelfth century, is the oldest

London hospital after Bart's and was rebuilt on the present site in 1868-71 to the designs of Henry Currey. He was one of the first to adopt the pavilion layout, advocated by Florence Nightingale, to allow maximum ventilation and dispersal of the foul air which led to a high casualty rate in so many earlier hospitals.

The north end of the hospital, by Westminster Bridge, was badly damaged by bombing in the second world war, and one pavilion destroyed. The architects Yorke Rosenberg and Mardall were responsible for the smooth white cubes which sit so unhappily opposite parliament and it is to be hoped that one day they will be replaced by pavilion blocks completing Currey's original delightful procession of marching pavilions along the Thames.

Council acts to save decaying listed mill

A 15 year battle to save one of the most handsome textile mills in Britain has reached a critical phase. The High Peak district council has decided to serve a compulsory purchase order on Cressbrook Mill, listed Grade II*, which looks out across a beautiful secluded valley in the heart of the Peak District National Park.

The main mill building, dating from 1814-16, stands on the site of an earlier mill constructed by Sir Richard Arkwright. It has the proportions of a grand Palladian country house with a central pediment and octagonal cupola.

The council is so concerned about its state that the building is inspected weekly. Mike Lee, the conservation officer, says: "We have recently carried out urgent works to stabilise the building. There were no gutters and rainwater was flowing down the facades and washing the mortar out of the walls threatening the stonework with collapse."

Cressbrook was last used as a cotton mill in the 1960s, but in recent years the site has been occupied by a stone cutting business. After a prolonged planning battle, the council has decided to purchase the mill with two alternative sites, but is now tak-



In danger: the dilapidated front of Cressbrook Mill

ing further enforcement action against him because it says he has failed to meet the terms of the agreement.

Cressbrook is being marketed by Donaldsons of Leeds, but compulsory purchase remains likely because of strong differences over price. The owner is believed to be seeking £1 million, but others believe that a valuation of the buildings in

their present dilapidated condition would produce a sum of about £300,000, particularly as there is no prospect of substantial enabling development in the National Park.

The best potential solution is likely to be housing either for the local or the holiday market, or a combination of the two as building sites in the Peak Park are very restricted.

MEMORIAL SERVICES
MORTIMER - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Roger Mortimer will be held at St. Michael and All Saints Church, Lambourne, Bucks. on Thursday January 2nd, commencing 11.30 am.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE
LEAH - L. Grant. Remembering my beloved husband today, his birthday, and every day.

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DEATHS
GOLLETT, December 27, 1991. Geoffrey John Herbert Gollett, aged 74 years. Beloved husband of Dorothy and father of three children. Private family funeral. Burial in the family grave at St. Peter's Church, Reading. Donations if desired to the Children's Cancer Trust or the British Cancer Campaign.

DEATHS
FITZGERALD, December 30, 1991. Pauline FitzGerald, nee Haining, 65 years. Beloved wife of 48 years of George and mother of three children. Burial in the family grave at St. Peter's Church, Reading. Donations if desired to the Children's Cancer Trust or the British Cancer Campaign.

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JAN 2 ON THIS DAY 1929

In Roman days - when it was called Rutupiae - Richborough in Kent was for a time the chief port of Britain; here began the main military highway. During the first world war Richborough underwent a kind of renaissance.

RICHBOROUGH AS A PORT.

TRANSITION STAGE. POSSIBILITIES OF COAL AND IRON.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

So much mystery has been encouraged to grow up round the Port of Richborough and what goes on there that the place is well worth a visit in order that one may discover the facts. These are simple enough. Richborough is passing through a stage of transition. Much of the War equipment of the place remains, and a large part of it at least it is hoped to use commercially. The possibilities of the port are considerable, but their development waits on the long-delayed trade revival.

The Port of Richborough stands on Pegwell Bay, beyond Sandwich. The river Stour almost encircles the port before pouring itself into the sea by way of the new channel into which it was diverted when Richborough was put to its War work. The country around is flat and lacks even a single eminence as high as that on which Richborough Castle stands, but it is well watered, and provides excellent pasturage. A channel cut some centuries ago, and leading from the Stour into tidal water, effectively carries away surplus surface water, so that, though the entire region is low, it is not liable to flooding.

The War history of Richborough may be noted in a few lines. The place was chosen to be a stores depot and a port from which craft could proceed

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- Purposeful watch (5)
- Troubled (9)
- Smell (5)
- Dread (3)
- Dreamer's fruit (5)
- Dependent (7)
- Scraped plate (7)
- Smoking material (5)
- Ship's record (3)
- Bright (5)
- Ineffectually (9)
- Observed (5)
- Plush through fear (4)
- Car (4)

DOWN

- Assertion (6)
- Self control (6)
- Out of date (3,7)
- Last stand general (6)
- Scented bath solid (4)
- Pygmy (6)
- Scow New Year's Eve song (4,4,4)
- Interminably (2,6)
- Swamp (6)
- Expensive magazine (6)
- Drowning execution (6)
- Carved (4)

WINNING MOVE
Solution from page 16:
1. Bc3 2. bxc3 3. Kb1 Ra8 and mate follows

SOLUTION TO NO 2676
ACROSS: 1 Chapel 5 UFO 9 Manic 10 Lovers 11 Bye 12 Flapjack 14 Chain reaction 17 Streamer 19 Lock 21 Whinny 23 Vainly 24 Box 25 Statue 26 Lunacy.
DOWN: 2 Henry 3 Prime time 4 Lucifer 5 Volga 6 Low 7 Miroon 13 R Toldien 15 Hatcher 16 Arrival 18 Maybe 20 Colic 22 Mat.

SOLUTION TO NEW YEAR CONCISE JUMBO CROSSWORD
ACROSS: 1 Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn 15 Repair car 16 Hands up 17 On the spot 18 Too petty 19 Newly-weds 20 Yummy 22 Forarmed 24 Embellish 26 Ruse plot 28 Abandon hope 29 Error of judgment 32 Ukelele 34 Intercom 36 Tazania 38 Rottweiler 40 Time bomb 43 Mackerel 46 Joshua 48 Naussarov 49 Postscript 53 Eagerest 55 Unimpaired 57 Minimum 59 Unacceptable 62 Transversal 64 Right back 66 Disrupt 67 Therapeutic 68 Memoirs 70 Newspaper 72 Wild stab 75 Not out on 76 Guide in 77 Out of ammo 78 Straw that broke the camel's back.
DOWN: 1 First of January 2 Appropriate 3 Knife 4 Yachtsman 5 Yard 6 Enhancements 7 Renewable 8 Dunny 9 Nippers 10 Gross profit 11 Voyeur 12 A 13 Applaud 14 National state 23 Address 25 Large 27 Pugnose 30 Ration 31 Ultimatum 33 Eye make-up 36 Rhine 37 Tug 39 Thong 41 Exile 42 Broadcasts 44 Autumn 45 Stumbling block 47 Haricot 50 Concede 51 Requirements 52 Prouberance 53 Stick insect 56 Tubes 58 Mesopotamia 60 Ergometer 61 Equipment 63 See little 65 Abstruse 66 Dower 69 In now 71 Prick 73 Dolls 74 Coda.

Shedding her shyness



Kirsty MacColl: low-key performer who generates warmth on stage

ROCK

Billy Bragg/Kirsty MacColl/Hackney Empire

"LET'S remember the hostages who are home at last," said Billy Bragg as the seconds ticked away to midnight on New Year's Eve. "The Birmingham Six, the Tottenham Three... hostages of the British legal system." A mighty roar went up, then it was the bells — courtesy of Radio 2, which seemed bizarre, given that the show was being broadcast live on Greater London Radio — followed by an up-tempo pseudo-ski version of "Auld Lang Syne".

Bragg's year-end shows have become a tradition, and like other regular seasonal rock shows — by Lindisfarne, Gary Glitter, Marillion — it has become a relaxed and unchallenging ritual. There was a comedian, called Porky, who made fun of Americans and Northerners and parodied Bragg's song "Sexuality" by turning it into a hymn to the joys of bestiality. And there was, of course, Bragg himself, the perennial song and joke man with a shopping list of familiar political slogans.

And then there was Kirsty MacColl, singing out a year of ups and downs which brought a chorus of acclaim for her album *Electric Landlady*, but a rude shock when her record company initially declined to underwrite her touring costs.

It has to be said that, as a live performer, MacColl is not the best advertisement for her own work. The woman who pulled off the barely imaginable feat of providing a romantic foil for Shane MacGowan on The Pogues' song "A Fairytale of New York" is apparently a retiring person.

With her competent four-piece band, featuring guitarist Mark Nevin (formerly of Fairground Attraction), ranged in front of the scenery flats for the pantomime currently in residence at the theatre, it all looked cheerfully makeshift. But after a tentative start with "A New England" (written by Bragg) and "Fifteen Minutes", an unappealing moan about how awful it is to be a pop star, the mood of orderly bonhomie gradually brought her out of her shell.

Her voice, with its clear vowel sounds and pronounced "folky" lilt, teased out fresh nuances from the old Clash song "Train in Vain", which segued, fittingly, into "Walking Down Madison", the standout track from *Electric Landlady*. As Nevin coaxed a polite shrieking noise from his guitar and wah-wah pedal, MacColl reminded us that "It's not that far from the sharks in the penthouse... to the bag lady frozen asleep in the park", a message which seemed to capture rather well the pessimistic spirit in which this new year will have been greeted by many people.

Wisely sticking to the more up-tempo material from her varied portfolio, she rocked out with "Free World" and set off a lively canter through the rockabilly swing of her first hit, "There's a Guy With a Whisker".

By the time she ended the set with the Johnny Moped song "Daring Let's Have Another Baby", performed as a vaudevillean duet with Bragg, she had generated considerable warmth. The only major disappointment of the night was Bragg's failure to join her for "A Fairytale of New York", which MacColl bravely sang by herself.

DAVID SINCLAIR

DANCE

The Nutcracker Festival Hall

LUCKILY ballet companies have not taken up the idea of transfer fees, or else some of the changes now taking place might prove costly. *Ludmila Semenyaka* played her first match — sorry, danced her first performance — for English National Ballet as a full member of the company.

At the box office, her presence should be a draw; you do not get to be a leading ballerina of the Bolshoi Ballet and a People's Artist of the Soviet Union for nothing (think of her in terms of Dame Ludmilla, the approximate equivalent). And on stage she dances as if very much aware of her star status.

Why, you may wonder, should she leave her established position in Moscow for the largely nomadic life of ENB? Well, apart from the obvious material factors, the word from Russia is that the Bolshoi Ballet's director, Yuri Grigorovich, hardly wants to see anyone over 25 on stage nowadays. And Semenyaka hits 40 this month.

SPECTACLE

Light Year Canary Wharf

THE proper place to see in the new year is the local pub, but stern duty called me across London to watch lights flashing on the west face of Canary Wharf Tower. Fortunately there are some famous pubs on the banks of the river, from which the best views of the Tower would be obtained. So a couple of cronies accompanied me on a circuitous route to the Isle of Dogs where something billed as "the UK's largest ever temporary public art work" was already stabbing the sky with blue lasers.

The pub we tried in Limehouse was

JOHN PERCIVAL

CONCERT

Vienna PO/Kleiber Radio 3/BBC 2

THIS year, as last, governments will rise and fall; fortunes will be made and lost. But the morning concert every New Year's day in the Musikverein is the Vienna Philharmonic's matchless way of reminding the world that life holds more vital things than power and politics. Listening to this orchestra skipping through the *Radezky March* always reminds me of the old joke about how a particular military defeat in the first world war was described in Berlin as "serious but not hopeless", and in Vienna as "hopeless but not serious".

Yesterday, the Vienna Philharmonic was at its most motivated — for two good reasons. The concert launched the orchestra's 150th anniversary year; and it was conducted by that enigmatic genius, Carlos Kleiber.

"Conducting" is a word that does scant justice to Kleiber's movements. Somehow out of his weird choreography emerge performances of utmost intensity and perfection. The little upbeat hesitations of the Johann and Josef Strauss waltzes were

wonderfully placed; the polkas galloped furiously yet with superbly delineated textures; and longer structures — such as Johann's *Gipsy Baron* overture and Josef's ethereal *Music of the Spheres* waltz — were remarkably paced.

Indeed, one incidental pleasure was the emphasis on Josef's music. His ardently rustic *Village Swallows* waltz and cracking *Fireproof* polka supported the view that his imagination exceeded even Johann's. Josef was the brother dancer, reluctantly into the family orchestral business. He tentatively wrote a waltz, entitled *The First and the Last*. Then he wrote another: *The First after the Last*. Then he wrote about 200 more.

Another pleasure of BBC TV's transmission was the contributions of the Vienna State Opera Ballet to the 1,001 *Nights* waltz, including a surprise appearance by Rudolf Nureyev, as a not exactly energetic Sultan. Disconcertingly, the television pictures arrived about a beat later than Radio 3's "simultaneous" sound, which was doubtless something technical to do with satellites. In the end I switched off the telly. With the Vienna Philharmonic at its slickest, the sound alone was sufficient feast for the senses.

RICHARD MORRISON

Inside the pub people were dancing on the chairs and tables, just as in all the musicals about jolly Londoners at play. Never again may I doubt the truth of such improbable routines. And so the minutes passed, the lasers flicked sideways, pointing to Sirius and Slough, and at 11.59 the Tower started the countdown to midnight, announced the new year, and added "Hi". Fireworks exploded like chrysanthemums in the sky and that was that. Colourful, true; visible for miles, no doubt; but not exactly thrilling. On the way back we found a club open, danced until three, and a good time was had by all.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Arts features, page 11

NEW RELEASES

● **CURLY SUE** (PG) On man and woman with the heart of a corporate attorney. Ugly mix of slapstick and sentiment, with a reasonable child star (Ashley Judd). With James Belushi, Kelly Lynch, director, John Hughes. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Newmarket (071-559 1527) Oxford Street (071-538 0310) MGM: Tottenham (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

● **THE PEOPLE UNDER THE STAIRS** (R) Ghetto burglars penetrate their host landlord's house. Lovely mix of horror, Grimm fairy story and social satire from director Wes Craven. Starring Brandon Adams, Everett McGill, Wendy Robie. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Newmarket (071-559 1527) Oxford Street (071-538 0310) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

● **RIOLETTTO** (PG) Pavarotti hits the high notes, but Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's film of Verdi's opera remains regrettably stagebound. Made for television in 1983. With Ingvar Wixell, Eda Gurbereva, and Riccardo Chailly conducting the Vienna Philharmonic. Barbiere (071-535 8891).

CURRENT

● **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** (PG) Tasty little bit of black humor, inspired by the 1960s TV spin-off from Charles Addams's macabre cartoons. Starring Raul Julia, Anjelica Huston, Christopher Lloyd, director, Barry Sonnenfeld. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Newmarket (071-559 1527) Oxford Street (071-538 0310) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

● **AN AMERICAN LATE FIVE** (PG) Goes West (U). Hecate sequel to the 1987 animation hit about emigrant moon. Best when it moves from Western cliché. A Steven Spielberg production, directors, Phil Nibbelink, Simon Wells.

● **BECKET** (PG) Rerolling performances from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay in Anouilh's play on the relationship between Thomas à Becket and Henry II. Theatres Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071 530 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm, 15mins.

● **BLOOD WEDDING** (PG) Love's tragedy relocated in Cuba but the usual passion is there. Bloodless. Local. National (Contest), South Bank, London SE1 (071-528 2252). Tonghi, 7.30pm, 15mins.

● **THE CABINET MINISTER** (PG) Derek Nimmo and Maureen Lipman in a snobish, largely unfunny Pinero comedy. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-561 1115). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm, 15mins.

● **DANCING AT LUGHANNA** (PG) Brian Friel's Olivier Award-winning memory play, set in 1950s Donegal, returns with a new cast. Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 15mins.

● **DYLAN THOMAS: RETURN JOURNEY** (PG) Bob Kinnaman's spellbinding portrayal of Dylan giving us the words. Lyric Studio, King Street, W8 (081-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Wed, 2.45pm, Sat, 4.30pm, Final week.

● **ELEGANT** (PG) Fiona Shaw's gut-rusting performance, ferociously satirizing and venturing, in Deborah Warner's first-class production. Riverside Studios, Chiswick Road, W6 (071-741 3354). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, 15mins. Final week.

● **AN EVENING WITH GARY LINEKER** (PG) Somewhat odd look at the footballer of a woman married to a soccer nut. Cathedral, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-494 5070). Mon-Thu, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm, Final week.

● **GOOD Golly MISS MOLLY** (PG) Cherish trip through Dickens and Strindberg's fairy tale but no matter. Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (071-535 8125). Mon-Thu, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm, 120mins. Final week.

● **THE GREAT PRETENDERS** (PG) Young Diabolon and his married victim, Genesius, the patron saint of actors, in Lopez de Vega's moral comedy. Brilliantly played. Bait, Prince Albert Park, 11 Pentridge Road, W11 (071-529 0700). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, 15mins.

● **JACK AND THE BEANSTALK** (PG) Glimmering production tells an irrepressible tale of Jack, with Tudor Devine a grand dame. Piccadilly, Denham Street, W1 (071-535 8125).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.

● **CANDOR PARKWAY** (PG) 267 7034. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Oxford Street (071-538 0310) MGM: Tottenham (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

● **THE COMMITMENTS** (PG) Hard-bitten Dublin youngsters form a soul band. Fresh, funny, and buoyantly played by a largely amateur cast. Director, Alan Parker. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Newmarket (071-559 1527) Oxford Street (071-538 0310) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

● **DANCES WITH WOLVES** (PG) Kevin Costner and the noble Sioux return; but this time the film lasts almost four hours, thanks to 52 extra minutes saved from the cutting room floor. An unnecessary revival. Odon Haymarket (0426 915358).

● **DEAD AGAIN** (PG) An LA. sear murder from the 1940s returns to haunt Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson. Nonsensical, over-the-top suspense thriller. Branagh directs. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Newmarket (071-559 1527) Oxford Street (071-538 0310) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

● **EDWARD II** (PG) Rerolling of Marlowe's play by Derek Lambert, words and images leap out at the audience. Steven Waddington and Andrew Tieman as star-crossed royal lovers. Tova Swenson an exasperated Queen. Cannon: Piccadilly (071-497 3561).

● **ENCHANTED APRIL** (PG) Four Englishwomen share an Italian villa in the 1920s; witty lines, fine performances, vivid entertainment. Starring Miranda Richardson, Joan

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

● **House full, returns only**
● **Some seats available**
● **Seats at all prices**

● **857 1118**, Mon-Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm.
● **THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE** (PG) You like Narnia or you don't. In this production the story is attractively staged and clear. Marmaduke Puddle Dock, EC4 (071-490 0000). Mon-Sat, 8pm and 8.30pm.

● **THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL** (PG) Pleasant musical version of the Hans Christian Andersen tale, neatly staged and touching. Orange Tree, 1 Cavendish Street, Camden (081-480 4052). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 15mins.

● **THE MYSTERY OF MARJA** (PG) Chris Bond's entertaining detective comedy reopens a famous Victorian murder case. Warehouse, Dingle Road, East Croydon (081-480 4052). Tues-Sat, 8pm, 15mins.

● **ONCE A CATHOLIC** (PG) Welcome return of Mary J. O'Malley's romping comedy about convent girls growing up between the wars and holy boys. Tricycle 259 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-326 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Sat, 4pm, 15mins.

● **PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** (PG) Grand version of the old thriller, times by Offenbach, Verdi and Weber but not Lloyd-Webber. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-579 5365). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, 15mins.

● **THE PHILADELPHIAN** (PG) First version of Shaw's well-known play on mental condition. Precise, fascinating. Hampstead, Seaside Centre, WC1 (071-484 5400). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Fri, Sat, 4pm, 15mins. Final week.

● **THE REVENGERS** (PG) Comedy. Alan Ayckbourn's ambitious, two-part comedy centred on the meeting of an incongruous pair (Duff Ryrie Jones and Lia Williams). Less than one might hope, but worth the time. Part 1: Mon, Thurs, 7.30pm, mat. Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Part 2: Tues, Wed, Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, 15mins. Final week.

● **THE RIDE DOWN MT MORGAN** (PG) Arthur Miller's disappointing one-

acted play where Tom Courteney argues the case for bigamy.

Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-827 1118). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm, 15mins.

● **THE SEA** (PG) Dutch spend as the village grand-daughter in a revival of Edward Bond's "comedy" of rage and madness. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-428 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat. Sat, 2.15pm, 15mins.

● **THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JEWELL AND MR WYDE** (PG) Roger Allen, Simon Russell Beale play after age-grubbing but after early longeurs. Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-538 6881). Today, 2pm and 7.30pm, 15mins. Final performance.

● **A SWEET PARTY** (PG) Four singers, two pianists in a lively tribute to Cole Porter's wit and very good songs. Vaudeville, The Strand, WC2 (071-536 9887). Mon-Thu, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.30pm, mat. Wed, 2.30pm, 15mins.

● **TARTUFFE** (PG) Paul Eddington directs, John Sessions comic, Felicity Kendal in a neatly successful Molière. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-538 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 2pm, 15mins.

● **A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES** (PG) Brothers: Lovely parade of musical oddities. Grand. Whitehall, SW1 (071-467 1119). Mon-Thu, 8.15pm, Fri, Sat, 8.15pm and 9pm, 120mins.

● **LONG RUNNERS** (PG) Aspects of Love: Prince of Wales (071-436 8872). Blood Brothers: Phoenix (071-487 1044). Buddy: Victoria (071-484 1317). J. Carter: Essex Old Vic (071-495 0072). J. Carter: New London (071-405 0072). J. Carter: New London (071-405 0072). J. Carter: New London (071-405 0072).

● **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR COAT** (PG) Directed by Steven Piller. The Philadelphian: Hampstead, Seaside Centre, WC1 (071-484 5400). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Fri, Sat, 4pm, 15mins. Final week.

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SPECTACLE

Light Year Canary Wharf

THE proper place to see in the new year is the local pub, but stern duty called me across London to watch lights flashing on the west face of Canary Wharf Tower. Fortunately there are some famous pubs on the banks of the river, from which the best views of the Tower would be obtained. So a couple of cronies accompanied me on a circuitous route to the Isle of Dogs where something billed as "the UK's largest ever temporary public art work" was already stabbing the sky with blue lasers.

The pub we tried in Limehouse was

JOHN PERCIVAL

closed to the public, a thoroughly unfriendly, indeed intolerable, circumstance. At Canary Wharf itself, cars were circling the square at the foot of the tower but not a pub could be seen. And so to Wapping, homely Wapping, and the Prospect of Whitby, where the staff had dressed up as ballerina, pirate and witch, and a fizzy duo named Spritzo Scaramanga spread cheer with "purrlesonic pop".

From the river terrace, we gazed across at the well-known vertical object with its pyramid cap twinkling with light.

The top ten floors had become a kind of blackboard on which red figures (300 of them, we are told) signalled the figure 10, meaning that less than two hours remained of 1991. First the light showed a 1, then a 0, then both together. One time the

top disappeared first, next time the bottom. Then a 1 appeared on top of the 0, in the shape of a squat bottle, and was followed by a 0 above a 1, somewhat like a full brandy glass. But this is a sequence that remains picturesque for only a limited time, about a minute and half, and we soon repaired to the pub.

Light Year is the brainchild of Peter Fink and Anne Bean, who designed the sequences, and Martyn Butler, who developed the software system to make the display work. I am prepared to agree that much ingenuity was required to put the act together, and of course it was public-spirited of Olympia and York to illuminate the London skyline for us, but dancing digits? I had hoped for pictures: snowmen, houses turning into boats, dogs jumping over the moon.

on the chairs and tables, just as in all the musicals about jolly Londoners at play. Never again may I doubt the truth of such improbable routines. And so the minutes passed, the lasers flicked sideways, pointing to Sirius and Slough, and at 11.59 the Tower started the countdown to midnight, announced the new year, and added "Hi". Fireworks exploded like chrysanthemums in the sky and that was that. Colourful, true; visible for miles, no doubt; but not exactly thrilling. On the way back we found a club open, danced until three, and a good time was had by all.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Arts features, page 11

ENTERTAINMENTS

THEATRES

● **ADRIAN ADAMS** (PG) 071 436 7411. CC 021 370 2638. 267 7034. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Newmarket (071-559 1527) Oxford Street (071-538 0310) MGM: Tottenham (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

● **ME AND MY GIRL** (PG) 071 436 7411. CC 021 370 2638. 267 7034. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Newmarket (071-559 1527) Oxford Street (071-538 0310) MGM: Tottenham (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

● **MAUREN NIMMO** (PG) 071 436 7411. CC 021 370 2638. 267 7034. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Newmarket (071-559 1527) Oxford Street (071-538 0310) MGM: Tottenham (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

● **SARA KESTELMAN** (PG) 071 436 7411. CC 021 370 2638. 267 7034. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Newmarket (071-559 1527) Oxford Street (071-538 0310) MGM: Tottenham (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

● **GAVIN WATFORD** (PG) 071 436 7411. CC 021 370 2638. 267 7034. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Newmarket (071-559 1527) Oxford Street (071-538 0310) MGM: Tottenham (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

● **THE CABINET MINISTER** (PG) 071 436 7411. CC 021 370 2638. 267 7034. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-370 2638) Newmarket (071-559 1527) Oxford Street (071-538 0310) MGM: Tottenham (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-732 3332).

6.00 *Coast* (7255) 6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* (5076666)
9.05 *Defenders of the Earth: Animation* (1) (Coast) (7259111) 9.25
Why Don't You...? (7684227)
10.00 *News*, regional news and weather (2729055) 10.05 *Playdays* (6)
(252047) 10.25 *Pluto* (7) (7614022)
10.35 *Playdays* (6) The junior event of the international canoeing
competition (103655)
11.00 *News*, regional news and weather (2615227) 11.05 *Film:*
Sylvester (1985) starring Richard Farnham, John and Melissa Gilbert.
Family drama about a 15-year-old Texas cowboy who dreams of
training a horse for the Olympic Games. Directed by Tim Hunter (6)
(5594024) 12.45 *Tom and Jerry*. A double bill of cartoons
(58497163) 12.55 *Regional news and weather* (7225311)
1.00 *One O'Clock News* and weather (57192) 1.30 *Neighbours*.
(Coast) (6) (53461652)
1.50 *Film: Saturday Night Fever* (1977) starring John Travolta and
Karen Lynn Gorney. Hair-energy musical centring on Tony
Manero, a disco-dancing Brooklyn youth whose love of dancing
gets him out of his working class rut. Directed by John Badham
(7482266)
3.35 *Cartoon: Double Bill* (507655) 3.50 *News* (874579) 4.00
Postman Pat and the Toy Soldiers. Animation (423311) 4.25
Touché Turtle. Cartoon (1) (507005) 4.30 *The End of the*
World. Episode one of a two-part drama set in Victorian England
(1) (5098192)
4.55 *Newsweek* (457255) 5.05 *Blue Peter*. Includes the latest news
of the programme's Golden Age appeal. (Coast) (5143045)
5.35 *Neighbours* (1). (Coast) (6) (75555) Northern Inside
Litter
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Andrew Harvey and Jill Dando. (Coast)
Weather (7)
6.30 *Regional News Magazine* (31) Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 *Top of the Pops* (6) (7453)
7.30 *Eastenders*. (Coast) (6) (43)
8.00 *Last of the Summer Wine*. Roy Clarke's evergreen comedy
series about a trio of ancient Yorkshiremen starring Bill Owen,
Peter Sallis and Brian Wilde. A return begins with the return of
Foggy to the fold after a period of painting eggs in Bridlington.
(Coast) (5111)
8.30 *The Brittas Empire*. The first of a new series of the comedy by
Richard Feagun and Andrew Norris starring Chris Barrie as the
enthusiastic young manager of a leisure centre. The word gets
round that Brittas is dead and not everybody is broken-hearted.
Indeed, his wife plans to marry a man she met at his funeral.
(Coast) (6) (2918)
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. (Coast) Regional news
and weather (5840)
9.30 *Comedy*. The last in Jasper Carrott's series of comedy
sketches and very observations. (Coast) (6) (55043)



Loose or liberated? Jodie Foster as Sarah Tobias (10.00pm)

10.00 *Film: The Accused* (1986).
 CHOICE: Jodie Foster was a deserved Oscar winner for a tough
 and brave performance in a film that is grippingly gripping while
 treating sensational material in a responsible way. Foster plays
 a victim of gang rape who takes her assailants to court but gives the
 defence enough ammunition to sustain the familiar counter-charge that
 she "asked for it". Kelly McGillis is Foster's lawyer, a middle-
 class liberal who is forced to settle for lesser charges, at odds
 by pursuing the case from another angle. Based on a true incident,
 the *Accused* invites sympathy for the Foster character while
 raising pertinent questions about the nature of the legal process
 and a society infested with male prejudice. The director, Jonathan
 Kaplan, cuts his teeth on exploitation films for Roger Corman. In *The*
Accused he is careful not to be exploitative, although he has been
 criticised for portraying the rape itself as explicit. (Coast) (6)
 (55551)
11.30 *Film: L2 - Battle and Home* (1988, colour, and b/w). A
 documentary account of the rock group U2's 1987 world tour, with
 a contribution from rhythm and blues star B.B. King. Directed by
 Phil Joanou (449255) 1.25 *News* (574154)

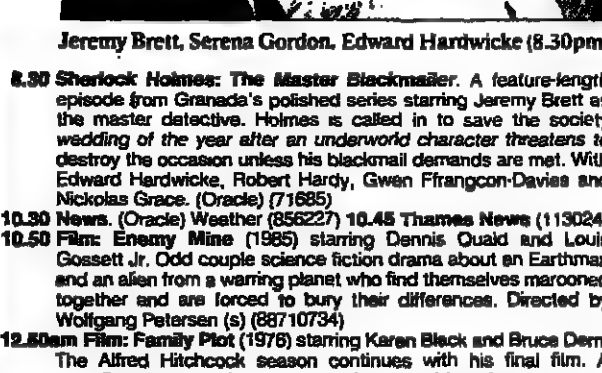
8.00 *Breakfast News* (1985203)
8.15 *Fish Gordon (b/w)* (1) (1981531) 8.30 *King of the Rocket Men*
(b/w) (1) (7530444) 8.45 *Under the Sea* (1) (758227)
9.00 *Film: The Mirror of Morgan Creek* (1944, b/w). The Preston
 Sturges sequel continues with his blistering satire in which Betty
 Hutton plays a small-town girl who gets drunk, becomes pregnant
 and cannot remember who the father is (13146579)
10.35 *Film: The Road to Denver* (1955) starring John Payne and Lee
 J. Cobb. Stuck western about two brothers in a feud over a
 Colorado stagecoach line. Directed by Joseph Kane (3623531)
12.00 *Film: The Red Balloon* (1955). Classic children's story starring
 Pascal Lamorisse and directed by Albert Lamorisse (231868)
12.35 *Gymnastics*. The 1991 world championships (675014)
1.20 *The Adventures of Spot* (1) (6200598) 1.25 *What's Inside?* (1)
(3623463) 1.35 *Look, Stranger*. The story of Saffron Walden
(6033918)
2.00 *News* and weather (1985203) 2.05 *Prokofiev*. The BBC Welsh
Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Rudolf Barshai, performs
music from Prokofiev's ballet *Romeo and Juliet* (1) (7041821)
2.50 *News* and weather (942293) 2.55 *The Royal Institution*
Christmas Lectures by Dr Richard Dawkins (1) (2598734) 3.50
News, regional news and weather (555521)
4.00 *Film: The Mirror of Morgan Creek* (1944, b/w) starring Jack
 Buchanan and Elsie Randall. Musical romance directed by Herbert
 Wilcox (5241173) 5.10 *Going Places*. Karesborough (1148840)
5.20 *Relay Report*. Highlights of the Lombard/RAC rally (4081111)
6.00 *Film: Burglar Malone* (1978) starring Scott Baio and Jodie Foster.
 Original and engaging spoof-and-dance spoof of old gangster
 movies with all the characters played by children. Directed by Alan
 Parker (71227)
7.30 *Open Space Christmas Special*. Two sisters, Liz Righton and
 Carol Robinson, take a seasonal episode at Christmas (65)
8.00 *Tweed*. A former successful poet remembers the salmon of the
 River Tweed (4753)
8.30 *Perpetual Motion: The Morris Minor*.
 CHOICE: Narrated by Warren Clarke, *Perpetual Motion* pays
 affectionate tribute to some of the classics of British transport. To
 be a car, an airplane, a motorcycle, a bus and a taxi but the series
 kicked off with our first million-selling motor car. Like the
 later Mini, the Morris Minor was the creation of the fertile,
 innovative and egocentric Alec Issigonis. His masterstroke was to
 put the engine ahead of the front wheels to release more space for
 passengers. The shape of the car reminded Issigonis's boss, Lord
 Nuffield, of a poached egg. Introduced in 1948 and costing £359,
 the Minor was sold on practically rather than glamour. But it is still
 an enthusiasts' following. (Coast) (3260)



Depressing cure: Julia Watson and Stephen Dillane (9.00pm)

9.00 *Film: Yellow Wallpaper* (1959).
 CHOICE: A 19th-century ghost story with strong feminist
 undertones stars Stephen Dillane as an ambitious young doctor
 whose wife's madness does not extend to his (1959) and
 despair. When his wife (Julia Watson) suffers depression after the
 birth of their child, his idea of a cure is to take her to a big house in
 the country, forbid her to read or to write and keep her as a virtual
 prisoner. Disturbed by the barred windows and sickly wallpaper of
 her attic bedroom, she begins a descent into madness. Maggie
 Wicksley's screenplay is based on an autobiographical novella by
 the American writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Good
 characterisation and intelligent performances sustain a low-key
 narrative that takes time to catch fire (782444)
10.10 10x10. Social services worker Jim Boyle meets some strange
 people and their even stranger pets (1) (285734)
10.25 *New Year On 2* (553404) 10.30 *Newsweek* (552258)
11.15 *Film: A Taste of Honey* (1961) starring Rita Tushingham and Dora
 Bryan. The late Tony Richardson's vocative version of the
 Shagley-Delany play about a pregnant Belfast teenager who
 leaves her alcoholic mother and makes friends with a shy
 homosexual (78376) 12.55 *News* (348361)

8.00 *TV-am* (8067482)
9.25 *The New Adventures of He-Man* (5843024) 9.50 *Thames News*
(5400531)
9.55 *Coogee Hall's Box of Crackers: Cinderella*. Animated version
of the classic fairy story (1) (3355585)
10.40 *Film: The Voyage of Sinbad* (1958). Fantasy adventure
starring Kenneth Mathews and Kathryn Grant. Sinbad goes in
search of a magic eggshell, helped by marvellous special effects
by Ray Harryhausen. Directed by Nathan Juran (5765505) 12.20
Cartoon: Photo stars in First Aid (5064918)
12.30 *News*. (Oracle) Weather (37647) 1.00 *Thames News* (6185511)
1.10 *Home and Away*. Australian family drama series (6167574) 1.40
Anna - Ballerina. Concluding the German drama about an
injured girl's fight to become a dancer (1) (25511840)
3.35 *ITN News* headlines (682598) 3.40 *Thames News* headlines
(872111) 3.45 *Cartoon: Gang Busters Again* (1978) starring
Tom Kinnits and Tim Conway. Disney comedy western about a pair
of incompetent outlaws. Directed by Vincent McVey (1855518)
5.40 *News* with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) (596268) 5.55 *Weather*
(21376)
6.00 *Home and Away* (1). (Oracle) (47)
6.30 *Thames News*. (Oracle) (27)
7.00 *Emmerdale*. Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales (2531)
7.30 *Just for Laughs*. A compilation of clips from British comedy film
clips (1) (11)
8.00 *The Bill: The Best Policy*. DI Burnside is initially pleased when
DCI Reid hands him a case of violent robbery. But pressure turns to
anger when DC Lewis suggests that Reid knew that the case was a
non-starter and dumped it on him (Oracle) (6579)



Jeremy Brett, Serena Gordon, Edward Hardwicke (8.30pm)

8.30 *Sherlock Holmes: The Master Blackmailer*. A feature-length
episode from Granada's polished series starring Jeremy Brett
as the master detective. Holmes is called in to save the society
wedding of the year after an earlier chapter threatens to
destroy the occasion unless his blackmail demands are met. With
Edward Hardwicke, Robert Hardy, Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies and
Nicholas Grace. (Oracle) (71885)
10.50 *News*. (Oracle) Weather (55227) 10.55 *Thames News* (113024)
11.00 *Film: The Day After Tomorrow* (1954) starring Dennis Morgan, Louis
Gosssett Jr. Odd couple science fiction drama about an Earthman
and an alien from a warring planet who find themselves marooned
together and are forced to bury their differences. Directed by
Wolfgang Petersen (1) (5871074)
12.50am *Film: Family Plot* (1976) starring Karen Black and Bruce
Darius. The Alfred Hitchcock season continues with his final film.
A complicated tale of a fake murder provides the master of
suspense with the chance to create some typically ingenious set
pieces, such as the kidnapping of a bishop from his cathedral in full
view of the congregation. (2670086)
3.00 *Film: Stranger in My Bed* (1986) starring Lindsay Wagner and
Armand Assante. Standard psychological thriller about a devoted
mother who suffers from amnesia after being knocked down by a
car. When she returns home after leaving hospital her husband
and children seem to be complete strangers. Directed by Larry
Elikam (499561)
4.50 *Film: The Tale of Tass Sultan* (1984). Animated version of a
popular Russian fairy tale based on a work by Alexander Pushkin
(1) (252522)
5.55 *News* (5550945). Ends at 6.00

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video
PlusCodes, which allow you to instantly programme your video recorder
with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ is used with most videos. Tap in the
Video PlusCode for the 7.30 Cinema and you'll have the details of the
VideoPlus+ on 088 12104 (calls charged at 40p per minute plus 30p off-peak)
or write to VideoPlus+, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8LA. VideoPlus+
or Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Gannett Marketing Ltd.

6.00 *Channel 4 Daily* (8065024)
9.25 *Sesame Street*. Entertaining pre-school learning series (8331024)
10.25 *The Maitland and Morphet Spring Quartet*. An Australian
animation, based on Nicholas Engh's poem (3305375)
11.00 *Kabaddi*. The women's semi-final. The favourites, West Bengal
play Tamil Nadu (1) (8314)
11.30 *Pro-Celebrity Golf* introduced by Tony Jacklin. Gary Player is
joined by James Bolan and Sandy Lie. Partnered by Michael
Kiemer over nine holes of the Dromoland Castle course near
Shannon (36024)
12.30 *Business Daily*. The latest news from the world's money markets.
presented by Susanah Simons (35253)
1.00 *Film: Blue Murder at St. Trinians* (1958, b/w). The appalling
schoolgirls win a UNESCO prize trip to Rome where they become
involved with a jewel thief and an impoverished Italian prince
looking for a wife. A roster of British comic talent is headed by
Alastair Sim as the headmistress, Terry-Thomas, Joyce Grenfell,
George Cole and Lionel Jeffries. Directed by Frank Launder
(1254531)
2.35 *Madeleine*. Animation (4933260)
2.45 *A Brush With Art*. The eighth of Alwyn Crawshaw's 12-part lesson
to paint series. Today he illustrates how to set up a still-life subject
and how to give it three-dimensional feel. (Teletext) (672598)
3.15 *A TV Drama*. The seventh part of Peter Greenaway's and Tom
Phillip's unusual interpretation of Dante's *Inferno* (1) (5187269)
3.30 *The Peacock Screen*. The final programme of the four-part series
looking at Indian cinema. (Teletext) (52227)
4.30 *Countdown*. Richard Whiteley introduces another round of the
words and numbers game, assisted by Carol Vorderman (24)
5.00 *Ganesh the Elephant God*. The last in the series of Ganesh Bed's
wildlife documentaries examines the Indian elephant's dual role as a
creature of worship and beast of burden (1). (Teletext) (6444)
6.00 *The Crystal Maze*. The first of a series of 11 repeats first seen
earlier last year, introduced by Richard O'Brien (43208)
7.00 *Channel 4 News*. (Teletext) Weather (387859)
7.50 *Comment* (55321)



Cosi on the beach: singers Kelly, Angel and Botes (8.00pm)

8.00 *Opera On 4: Coal Fen Tuba*. The Opera Factory production of
Mozart's story of lovers' infidelity and the heartbreak that follows,
set in modern dress on a Mediterranean beach. With Christine
Botes, Marie Angel, Neil Archer, Geoffrey Dolton, Jania Kelly and
Tom McDonnell (522550)
11.20 *It's Roger Mello - the Man on the Telly*. Animated adventures
of a magazine's odious comic-strip character (1) (534227)
11.25 *Bill Hicks - Ballerina*.
 CHOICE: Bill Hicks is a youngish American stand-up comedian
who has been hailed by somebody or other as the new Larry
Bruce. Judging by this sample of his act, the similarity lies in a
general attempt to shock, including the liberal use of a particular
four-letter word. This presumably explains why Channel 4 has
scheduled the show so late in the evening. It was recorded at the
1991 Montreal international comedy festival and uses minimal
presentation. Hicks is dressed in black, performs on a candle as
stage, and has only props are a stool supporting a glass of water.
His style is conversational and eschews straight jokes in favour of
pointed observations on a range of topics including the Gulf
conflict, smoking, pornography, sex and drugs. In his mordant way,
some of it is very funny. There is also much that is calculated to
offend. (425550)
12.55am *Film: The Bacchantes* (1961) starring Tania Elg and Pierre
Brice. The *Swindon and Sandal* season continues with a drama set
in ancient Thebes about a young slave who tries to save a beautiful
woman from becoming a sacrificial victim. Directed by Giorgio
Ferroni. In Italian with English subtitles (212332). Ends at 1.00

TV VARIATIONS
ANGLIA
 As London except: 6.30pm-7.00 *Anglia News* (78282)
BORDER
 As London except: 6.30 *Film: Disney's*
Justin Case (457353) 6.10-6.40 *Home and*
Away (573452) 6.50 *Lookback* (57)
CENTRAL
 As London except: 6.30pm-7.00 *Central News*
(78282)
GRANADA
 As London except: 6.30pm-7.00 *Granada*
Tonight (27)
HTV WEST
 As London except: 6.00pm *HTV News* (47)
6.30-7.00 *Home and Away* (27)
HTV WALES
 As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 *Wales*
at 5p
TSW
 As London except: 6.00pm *TSW Today*
(47) 6.30-7.00 *Lookback* (27)
TVS
 As London except: 6.00 *Film: Disney's*

Man on the Telly (554555) 12.05 *The Ben*
Docton (503755) 1.00 *The Black Bag*
(507171) 1.35 *Duval*
RTÉ 1
 Starts: 12.55pm *News* (5401005) 1.00
Boys (503444) 1.30 *The Week of the*
Director (507455) 2.00 *Emmerdale*
(551840) 3.40 *Film: The Doctor's Dilemma*
(195505) 5.00 *A Country Practice*
5.30 *The Young Doctors* (54215)
11.00 *The Bold and the Beautiful* (54452)
11.30 *The Young and the Restless* (55555)
12.00 *News* (55555) 1.00 *The Young and*
the Restless (55555) 1.30 *News*
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197mph wind lashes Britain

By KERRY GILL

A GUST of 197mph was reported in the North Sea yesterday as hurricane-force winds battered much of Scotland and the northern isles. The gust, described by the Aberdeen coastguard as exceptional, was recorded on the Brent Alpha oil platform, about 100 miles north-east of Shetland.

Winds exceeding 140mph imperilled shipping and oil installations, and gusts of more than 100mph damaged roofs, smashed windows and wrecked caravans on Shetland, and left roads blocked by fallen trees in northern and central Scotland.

One vessel, the Vespa Sapphire, drifted north of Shetland for almost four hours before the 12-man crew managed to restart her engines after she was left without power when a huge wave hit her wheelhouse. Conditions, described as atrocious, foiled an attempt to winch the crew off the oil supply vessel. Once power was regained, and the vessel limped towards Bergen, Norway, under escort.

A coastguard spokesman at Lerwick, Shetland, said: "Without engine power, you cannot turn round into the wind, so you are at the mercy of the elements. There was a vicious sea out there at the time and potentially it was very serious."

A 65,000-tonne oil tanker, Noga, had to ride out a hurricane force 12 wind 14 miles east of Shetland.

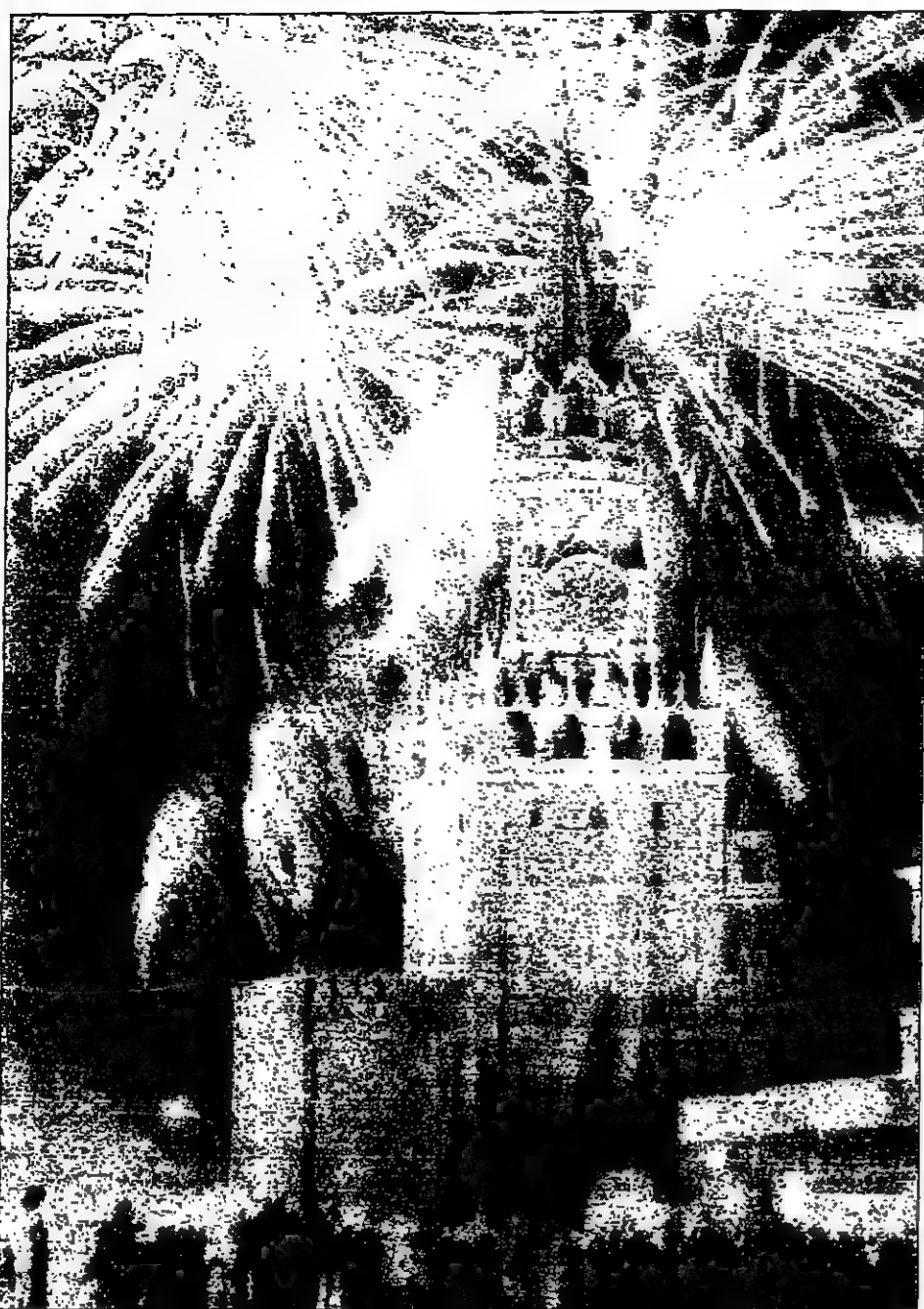
The worst-affected area was east of Shetland, where the Brent Delta oil installation recorded a 197mph gust, according to the coastguard. Westerly gales, often reaching 140mph, ripped through the oilfields before subsiding. "It was very short-lived, but extremely furious," the Aberdeen coastguard said.

Rigs lost anchor cables and liferafts, and supply vessels were battered by mountainous waves. At RAF Saxa Vord, on the Shetland island of Unst, radio aerials were blown down. Although buildings on the Shetland islands were built to resist high winds, there was widespread structural damage.

Police and firefighters evacuated a 20-caravan site on Shetland. Caravans at the Annesbree site, Lerwick, were flattened by the wind.

Forecast, page 18
Snow Report, page 24

Fireworks greet 1992 in Moscow and London



Lighting up the new year: fireworks sparkle over the Kremlin, left, while laser lights join the foghorn-and-firework celebrations over Canary Wharf in London

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

TO the thousands of policemen who saw in the new year on duty around Britain, it was "just like a normal Saturday night". There were, of course, hundreds of arrests to be made, injuries to attend to, fights to break up, burglaries to investigate and even a distinctly embarrassed Royal Marine, dressed up in women's clothes, to rescue from his overturned car.

Most police forces reckoned, however, that the celebrations had gone off comparatively peacefully. It was certainly quieter in Britain than in the Philippines, for example, where 11 people died in fights in Manila and 1,300 people were wounded, mainly by bullets fired at random into the air as a way of celebration.

In Moscow, fireworks lit up the sky as Russians celebrated the first new year since 1917 without a red flag flying over the Kremlin. Die-hard communists tried to dampen

Royal Marine in drag brings bright touch to 'normal night' for police

the spirits of the revellers, but they were drowned out by the fireworks and the popping of champagne corks.

In Trafalgar Square, 157 people were arrested, including 40 for drunkenness and 54 for causing public disorder. Eight were charged with having offensive weapons and five with assault. Other arrests were for robbery, drug offences, criminal damage and indecent exposure.

In Manchester, police reported a calm night, and in the West Midlands a relieved and rather surprised senior officer said that it had actually been "quite enjoyable".

Police in Worthing and Tunbridge Wells — towns whose image is generally one of such tranquility — had to deal with scuffling groups

of youths and partygoers, and throughout the West Country there were minor scuffles, arrests and some injuries. Forty-eight people were arrested in Gloucestershire and 22 in Swindon in the three hours after midnight. Thieves broke into dozens of houses in Bristol while the owners were at parties.

Police at Thatcham in Berkshire had stones thrown at them as they tried to arrest a man, and there were fights in Henley-on-Thames, Reading, Milton Keynes and Scarborough. A police officer in Ruthin, north Wales, needed 80 stitches after being thrown through a plate-glass window.

A young driver knocked down a man and three women as they walked along a pavement in Col-

chester, Essex. The man and two of the women suffered broken legs. The car, which smashed into a number of others, finally came to a stop and the driver, whom police said had been drinking, was arrested.

A mother and her young son died when their car plunged into a river at Willingham, near Cambridge, on their way to a party. The car driver, a family friend, was trapped in the car and died as it sank in deep water. The body of the four-year-old boy was spotted after having been thrown clear of the submerged wreckage.

A man aged 52 died in a house fire from which a second man escaped. Police are treating it as arson.

A man aged 45 was found dead in

suspicious circumstances in Crewe, Cheshire. A teenager fell into the River Hull in Humberston while walking home with a group of friends. One tried to save him, but had to be rescued himself. Despite a search by an RAF helicopter, the missing youth had still not been found by last night.

It was otherwise a generally quiet new year, lit up partly by the red cheeks of the Royal Marine, who was taken to Poole General Hospital, Dorset, wearing according to a straight-faced policeman, a mauve skirt and white top.

There he joined another victim of Dorset-style celebrations: a 40-year-old man dressed as a fairy, complete with tutu and wand, who simply "fell down in the street".

It all happened as Jonathan Hayley was making his appearance — at precisely one second past midnight — to become Britain's first baby of 1992.

Shares rise, page 28

Major backs Lamont

Continued from page 1
such a step would be ill advised and could force up base rates. He suggested that they might be five points higher if Britain was not a member of the European exchange-rate mechanism.

Independent forecasters are hastily revising downwards their growth projections for this year. The prime minister's acceptance that the chancellor's forecast of 2.25 per cent growth this year, made as recently as November's autumn statement, will not be realised will be viewed by Conservatives as confirmation that they will go into an election with few signs of an upturn and on the promise of better things to come.

Now that the prime minister and the chancellor have explicitly ruled out short-term measures to revive the economy, most Tories will be pinning their hopes on a tax-cutting budget to provide the springboard for an election victory. They will be looking for a penny off the basic rate of tax and, after Mr Major's latest hint, a big increase in the £140,000 threshold for inheritance tax.

Russia and Europe, page 2
Letters, page 13
Shares rise, page 28

Royal work increases

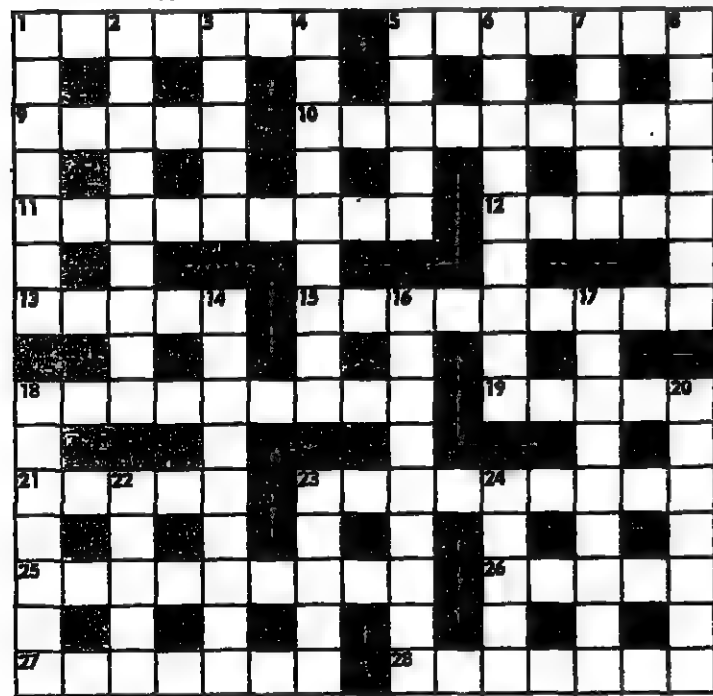
Continued from page 1
sury would have raised £7 million a year.

Although the Queen is technically unpaid, she receives £7.9 million from the Civil List. The other seven recipients receive £1.88 million a year between them. The Queen gets a return of more than £13,000 per engagement if the crude mathematical formula is applied, the Princess Royal just over £300 per engagement, Prince Edward almost £400.

The roll call of royal endeavour is the brainchild of Tim O'Donovan, aged 59, an insurance broker from Datchet, Berkshire. He spends about four hours a week combing through the royal engagements reported in *The Times* Court Circular, and the itineraries of tours abroad.

So in demand from both media and public is his work that Buckingham Palace press relations staff regularly refer enquirers to him. He started clocking up the royal workload in 1979.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,804



- ACROSS
- Pre-emptive quarter in shopping precinct (7).
 - Vegetation barely used for concealment (3-4).
 - Gains on new cereal products (5).
 - Cloth turned back in jolly spread (9).
 - In France she serves in motorway eating place (9).
 - Two mysterious following (2,3).
 - It's unbecoming to be lost in a Welsh town (5).
 - Young runner in Derby — or an alternative (6,3).
 - Awful old places caved in (9).
 - Spray from water source not new (5).
 - Primate possibly getting little cash in retirement (5).
 - Celebrated directors? That's right (9).
 - Railwaymen prepared, we hear, to hold points for tender (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,803

DOWN

- Ketch, say, with crew below deck (7).
- Put cover over bar as security precaution (5-4).
- Some places sentimentalized in Germany (5).
- A pot tankard
- Expert manipulator personally trained beginners cutting hair — could have been Delilah! (9).
- Strong point right among enemy (5).
- Banks requiring stamp in permits (9).
- She wrote elevated work upholding English (5).
- Mini overturned in dash in main thoroughfare (7).
- Hardened crook detected at the outset could be so apprehended (3-6).
- Equipped with Marine attachments, as warships might be (9).
- A case for the Council (7).
- Unexpected gift of object to support gallery (7).
- "Costly" habit as thy — can buy (Hamlet) (5).
- It's an uncommon colour (5).
- Elementary scholar thus maintained (5).

Concise Crossword, page 15

Northern Ireland and northern and western Scotland will be cloudy with rain, heavy at times, but there may be clearer spells in the far north this afternoon and this evening. Wales and western England will be cloudy with light rain or drizzle, mainly on coasts and hills. Further east, brighter spells are likely. All areas will be windy, with gales in the north and the west, but it will still feel mild. Outlook: turning colder in the north. Most areas will see some rain.

ABROAD		
MIDDAY: 1-4 thunder, 5-10 drizzle, 11-14 fog, 15-17 sun; 18-21 clear, 22-24 rain, 25-27 sun.		
Algeria	10	57
Alexandria	9	48
Athens	10	58
Bombay	10	58
Buenos Aires	10	58
Calcutta	10	58
Cairo	10	58
Colon	10	58
Hong Kong	10	58
London	10	58
Lyons	10	58
Madrid	10	58
Moscow	10	58
New York	10	58
Paris	10	58
Rome	10	58
Singapore	10	58
Tokyo	10	58
Washington	10	58
Zurich	10	58

TOURIST RATES		
Australia	2.49	2.34
Belgium	61.30	57.30
Denmark	11.57	10.82
France	8.26	7.88
Germany	2.75	2.75
Hong Kong	15.10	14.10
Italy	1.15	1.05
Japan	251.00	232.00
Norway	11.74	10.94
Portugal	26.00	24.00
Spain	187.50	174.50
Switzerland	2.85	2.47
Turkey	9800.00	9000.00
USA	1.97	1.87
Yugoslavia	0.85	0.80

Weather maps and forecasts for the UK and Europe, including temperature and wind speed data.

Leeds United take over at top of first division as championship rivals suffer their heaviest home defeat for 14 years

Bailey treble halts shabby United

Manchester United 1
Queen's Park Rangers .4

BY STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ALEX Ferguson, worried that Manchester United might lose concentration in between the three meetings with Leeds United, yesterday watched his worst fears realised.

A pitifully shabby impersonation of the side which had surged to the top of the first division table, they left Old Trafford surrounded by the jeers they had earned during their heaviest defeat at home for 14 years.

There could be no excuses. The lone exception amid the listlessness and carelessness was Mark Hughes. Lively and alert, he at least gave the impression that he had not indulged in excesses the night before. The rest did.

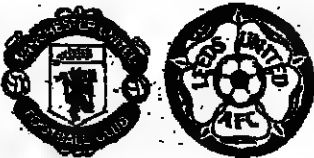
Not Queen's Park Rangers, though. Eager from the start, they took an early two-goal lead and might have added two or three more before assuring themselves of being the first visitors to win at Old Trafford since Everton in March last year.

Ferguson, United's manager, made no attempt to disguise his side's deficiencies. "We never started," he said. "It was like a nightmare. We were totally out-played. But I am sure that this will be a one-off."

United were aware that they had to win to regain the leadership from Leeds, who had won earlier at West Ham. In an attempt to refresh his line-up, Ferguson introduced Lee Sharpe after an absence of seven months and rested Ryan Giggs. Andrei Kanchelskii, a victim of influenza, was replaced by Mike Phelan.

Previously, United opened this season, United opened as though in a collective daze. As though strolling around in the heavy air of complacency. The most resilient defence in the first division immediately disintegrated and was pierced twice within five minutes with an ease which defied belief.

Clayton Blackmore, who



	P	W	D	L	F	A
Leeds Utd	24	19	10	1	42	18
Man Utd	23	14	8	2	43	18
Sheff Wed	23	11	7	5	37	24
Man City	23	11	7	5	33	28
Liverpool	23	9	11	3	37	19
Aston Villa	23	11	5	3	24	25

had been brought in to cover for the injured Denis Irwin, was especially to blame for the alarming lack of discipline which spread among his colleagues. Together, they offered Peter Schmeichel flimsy protection.

Rangers, resurgent since the return of Ray Wilkins, had built sufficient belief during their own unbeaten sequence of half a dozen games that they readily accepted United's wide spread invitations. Dennis Bailey, especially, profited from the unexpected generosity and helped himself to three of his side's four goals.

The first, scored in the fourth minute with startling simplicity, epitomised the ragged nature of United's rearguard. With Blackmore providing no more than a token gesture of a tackle, Roy Wegerle was allowed to drift down the right flank before rolling the ball to Barker. He nudged it in turn on to the equally unguarded Sinton, who swept it in at his own convenience.

Sinton created the second a minute later, when Blackmore again was at fault. Drawn across from his left back position, he merely accompanied Bailey into the area and failed to prevent him from unleashing a shot.

United, having started at the pace of a torpore in favour of a collective daze, could do nothing to raise their challenge and a crowd of 38,554, which had been much characteristically subdued before the kick-off, was reduced to virtual silence.

Groans were heard, though, when Holloway's drive narrowly evaded a bar, and particularly when Bailey,



Road block: Whyte, left, beats away a close-range shot by Small, of West Ham, at Upton Park yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

running on alone to a job hoisted by Peacock, lobbed equally narrowly over the bar.

United, so apathetic that they had raised not a single strike before the interval, at least awoke momentarily after 2. Yet after attempts from Hughes and Blackmore had endangered Stojkic for the first time, Rangers resumed their more effective counterattacks. In the 58th minute, seconds after Schmeichel had swooped on Sinton's menacing drive, he was beaten again.

Sinton's through ball was once more permitted by the distracted Bruce, who celebrated his 31st birthday on New Year's Eve, to run to Bailey.

His job was precise and United were then in danger of not so much severe embarrassment as profound humiliation.

McClair lifted their spirits, first with an effort which was disallowed and then with a legitimate strike in the 82nd minute.

Hughes, battling typically to gain possession from 'Giggs' corner, provided the opening for him but Rangers soon restored their advantage.

Sinton, given the freedom of the left flank, ran on before striking the foot of the distant post. Bailey, with no one near, simply tapped in the rebound for his tenth goal of the season.

His striking partner, Wegerle, spared United further indignity by scooping over an equally glaring opportunity in the final minute.

West Ham United 1
Leeds United 3

By CLIVE WATTS

EXUDING the kind of professionalism that has been their hallmark since the Sixties, Leeds United summoned the strength and savvy — on a day when Howard Wilkinson, their manager, freely admitted that "something was missing" — to overtake Manchester United at Upton Park in their unending duel for the championship.

That professionalism is no longer of the negative kind that made Leeds few friends on their last visit to the east London football academy two seasons ago but of a confident, positive nature that threatens to push United all the way to the finish.

"I don't know whether it's tongue out or thumbing the nose at those who were critical of us that day," Wilkinson said. "But we've done very well in those two years and I am satisfied to be top of the table."

For that, Leeds were indebted to the impeccable goalkeeping of John Lukic, the predatory instinct of Lee Chapman, who pounced for two goals, and a sweet, sweet strike from Gary McAllister — such a commanding figure in the midst of a beautifully balanced midfield.

It would have been so easy for Leeds to have dropped their guard against struggling West Ham and it was commendable, of them, too, that they managed to pull off a victory in the face of what Billy Bonds, the West Ham manager, considered was his team's most spirited performance of late.

There have not been too many of those during a run in which they have gathered just one point in a possible 21 to find themselves well and truly entrenched in the relegation mire.

West Ham's defensive vulnerability was there for all to see after just 11 minutes when, having wrecklessly conceded a free kick, courtesy of Dicks' wild tackle on Wallace, they failed lamentably to pick up players at either end of the free kick.

Strachan and McAllister were permitted to work an overlap and, from the latter's cross, Chapman headed in off a post.

Had this been earlier in the season, when referees were exercising the Fia edict on professional fouls, Leeds might have surrendered more than their lead in the 23rd minute.

Dorigo, having outpaced Keen from a through ball from McAllister, under hit his backpass to Lukic and then deliberately pushed the West Ham player to prevent

him from gaining an advantage.

Ron Groves, the referee, chose not to book the English player but appeased the West Ham supporters with a penalty award, from which Dicks scored emphatically.

The first of several breath-taking saves by Lukic kept Leeds deservedly in the game, as he palmed away a vicious, swerving drive by Bishop, before McAllister strode on to a headed pass by Chapman to strike a shot of stunning velocity with effortless timing past Miklosko.

Lukic frustrated the opposition when tipping over the

crossbar a dangerously mis-hit downward header from Small, and saving at point-blank range in quick succession from Bishop and Breacker, but, with five minutes remaining, Chapman assured Leeds of their victory when he sidefooted home a cross from Wallace at the far post for his eleventh goal of the season.

WEST HAM UNITED: L. Miklosko; T. Breacker, J. Dicks, A. Datta, S. Potts, M. Thomas, J. Bishop, F. McAllister, M. Small (subs: A. Morley, K. Keen, S. Slater).

LEEDS UNITED: J. Lukic; M. Strachan, A. Dorigo, D. Bailey, G. Parkinson, G. Whyte, G. Strachan, R. Dwyer, W. Wallace, L. Chapman, G. McAllister, G. Dicks (subs: R. Groves).

Luton's climb gathers pace

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

LUTON Town's festive revival continued with a 1-1 draw away to Nottingham Forest yesterday, giving them seven points from three games and lifting them out of the bottom three in the first division.

David Pleat, the Luton manager, must have been counting on a maximum nine points — after previous wins over Chelsea and Arsenal — with a minute remaining at the City Ground.

Pembroke had given his side the lead after 33 seconds, earning himself a magnum of champagne for the quickest new year goal, but Walker, the Nottingham Forest and England central defender, popped up with a sparkling goal, too, in the last minute — his first for the club in over 300 appearances. So pleased was his manager, Brian Clough, that he planted a kiss on Walker's cheek at the end.

There was no joy for Southampton. Now bottom of the table, despite an unexpected 3-3 draw against Leeds United on Boxing day, they slipped to their sixth defeat at The Dell this season, 2-1 against Everton.

An 89th-minute goal by Adams was scant consolation after Ward and Beardsley had given Everton the lead midway through the second half.

Aston Villa's aspirations of challenging Leeds and Manchester United at the top — always little more than a pipedream — was again exposed in a 2-1 defeat at Norwich.

Although buoyant after Christmas wins over West Ham and Southampton, and further inspired by Regis's equaliser cancelling out Fleck's twice-taken penalty, Aston Villa bowed to a 78th-minute winner from Ullasthorpe.

Crystal Palace will feel a good deal happier. After mediocre 1-1 away draws with Wimbledon and Sheffield United, Gabbadiini pounced in the seventh minute to clinch a 1-0 victory over Notts County, who are still hovering on the brink of a swift return to the second division.

Rovers return, page 20
Cavalier Oldham, page 21

At Old Trafford. Att: 38,554. Ref: K Barrett

HT: 0-2 MAN UTD 1 OPR 4
Scorers: McClair 82 Sinton 3
Bookings: Ince 81 Bailey 5, 58, 88
Subs: Giggs 63 (Phelan)

	MAN UTD	OPR
Shots (on target/total)	2 / 9	9 / 15
Corners (left/right)	2 / 5	1 / 1
Crosses (left/right)	7 / 18	9 / 20
Free kicks/pens against	14 / 7	18 / 3
Offsides	2	3
Possession (gained/lost)	28 / 84	29 / 83

MANCHESTER UTD (4-4-2)				OPR (4-4-2)			
Player	Goal	Attempt	Points	Player	Goal	Attempt	Points
P. Schmeichel				D. Stojkic			
R. Irwin				D. Stojkic			
C. Blackmore				D. Stojkic			
S. Bruce				D. Stojkic			
A. Morris				D. Stojkic			
G. Parkinson				D. Stojkic			
M. Phelan				D. Stojkic			
R. Irwin				D. Stojkic			
S. Bruce				D. Stojkic			
B. McClair				D. Stojkic			
M. Hughes				D. Stojkic			
L. Sharpe				D. Stojkic			
R. Giggs				D. Stojkic			
M. Donaghy				D. Stojkic			

DESPITE United enjoying a 7-2 advantage in corners, they only managed two shots on-target. Rangers, on the other hand, converted four of their six on-target shots and had 13 attempts in total.

They committed 18 fouls to Manchester's 13 but the referee highlighted a superiority in the competitiveness rather than any dirty play. Compiled by Julian Doolough

Catering changes will cheer racegoers

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

RACEGOERS at Royal Windsor and Cheltenham received a very welcome and unexpected 1992 pick-me-up yesterday when one of Britain's largest racecourse caterers announced price cuts of up to 30 per cent across the board.

The surprise decision by Lethby and Christopher to reduce the cost of food and drink ranging from sandwiches to champagne will apply at the 14 courses where the Wokingham based company operates, including Ascot, Newmarket, Chester and Aintree.

The reductions, combined with a pledge to improve quality, comes after years of criticism about the standard of racecourse food, especially from regulars in Tattersalls and the Silver Ring. A survey conducted by the Racecourse

Association last year disclosed that only a third of punters were pleased with the cuisine on offer at Britain's 59 tracks.

Tim Stonhill, Lethby and Christopher's area operations manager, said at Windsor yesterday: "We accept that racecourse catering has not always been as good as it should have been and we have been slammed for it in the past. We are not going to be slammed for it in future."

He added: "We have spent three to five years concentrating on hospitality and corporate boxes which we think we have got right, but our minds have not been on the prime core of the business, which is the general public. Public catering is 20 per cent of our business but creates 90 per cent of our problems. The way forward for 1992 is value for money, quality and service."

The caterers have left nothing to chance in improving basic snacks, including sandwiches. Stonhill explained:

"The benchmark in sandwiches is provided by Marks and Spencer.

"We bought 400 from various stores and took them to bits to analyse what was inside. We looked to see how much butter they used, whether the mayonnaise was real and so on. Our people are now making sandwiches to that benchmark, so the quality has improved."

The most expensive sandwiches now cost £2, a reduction of 80p, while the

cheapest are £1.15p less than the old prices. The price cuts will cost Lethby and Christopher £250,000. Their profits of £650,000 last year came from racecourse catering turnover of £20 million.

Tea is staying at the same price while coffee is being increased by 5p but the quantity is increasing by 50 per cent and better cups are being used.

The price of hot savoury pies is being reduced by 20 per cent and branded makes are being offered instead of poorer quality products. Danish pastries and doughnuts are larger but cost 50p compared to 80p.

Cans of beer, lager, cider and Guinness cost about 25p less each while Lanson Black Label and Mumm Cordon Rouge champagne are about £2 a bottle cheaper. Beefburgers and steak sandwiches are also costing less. Caterers who hold concessions from Lethby and Christopher have also agreed

to reduce their prices.

The reduction in tariffs has not come before time and coincides with the effects of the recession on the punters' pocket. Nevertheless, it is a courageous move by such a large company to admit it has not been giving the consumer value for money and to take active steps to try to improve the deal on offer.

"If we didn't do something to help punters on racecourses we faced going down the slippery slope. Not just us, but everyone involved with racing."

"By dropping our prices, improving quality and service, we hope to please existing racecourse customers and attract new ones, thereby increasing the volume of our sales," Stonhill added.

Meanwhile, Royal Windsor announced yesterday that it was spending £400,000 on building 12 private viewing boxes.

Mellor triumph, page 22
Racing results, page 23

IT MUST BE TIME FOR THE ALFRED DUNHILL SALE.



dunhill

Visit Alfred Dunhill at 30 Duke Street, St James's, Burlington Arcade and Sloane Street.

Oldham get point from match of lost opportunities

At the other end Wilson twice found himself with time and space deep inside the penalty area, but on both

OLDHAM ATHLETIC: J. Halliwell; G. Helle (sub: R. Palmer); C. Fleming; N. Henry; E. Barrett; R. Johnson; N. Adams; I. Marshall; G. Stamp; N. McDonald; R. Hinkley; P. Harris; R. Nixon.

Up and over: Jones shoots, Dibble saves, and another chance for Chelsea goes begging. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Generous hosts give away too much

fumbled. Dixon put Wise away; he struck a post. Hall, deputising for the injured Clarke at right back, struck a low cross shot; Dibble, a last-minute deputy for Coton who was suffering from food poisoning, held it well. Dixon, alone with only Dibble to beat, allowed himself to be smothered, then moments later headed over

Quarter of an hour from the end Quinn wasted a rare opening from only eight yards, but still City unjustifiably were to save the day.

CHELSEA: D. Beasant, G. Hall, T. Boyd, V. Jones, P. Elliott, C. Condy, G. Le Sau, J. M. Lewis (sub M. Austin), A. Townsend, K. Dixon, C. Allen, D. Webb.

MANCHESTER CITY: A. Dumble, J. Brightwell, N. Poulton, P. Road, J. Sub M. Goughley, K. Curtis, S. Redmond, D. White, A. Heath (sub M. Sherron), N. Quinn, G. Morgan, M. Hughes.

Referee: J. Conley.

Inaccurate Saunders slow to find the winning goal

For the first half they did not even look that as Saunders spurned two good chances to give them an early lead and they instead found themselves behind as Shef-

Hill came on to strengthen the Sheffield defence for the last 20 minutes, but the red tide was now flowing in a more familiar fashion. Final-

Arsenal still cannot find winning habit

shackled for most of the game by Terry Phelan — Wright

Ryan), T Phelan, W Barton, J Scales, S Fitzgerald, G Edons (sub A Clarke). R Eadie, J Fasham, P Miller, S Anthopoulos.

Lineker does the honours

Stewart was booked after just 48 seconds for an idiotic

Coventry suddenly took their foot off the accelerator. And

Gakcher, D Smith (sub P Furlong)
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: E Thorsvedt,
Farnick, P van den Hauwe, S Sedgley.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

[illegible]

ATHLETICS

Evans's run is another warning to selectors

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

PAUL Evans, of Belgrave Harriers, yesterday provided the annual Morpeth to Newcastle road race with its first southern winner since Jim Peters took the last of his three successive victories in 1954.

Britain's selectors, therefore, will shift uneasily in their seats this weekend when Evans's name comes up at their meeting to decide which three men to choose for the Olympic marathon. Evans, by his own admission, is unlikely to be chosen but after his victory here over one athlete who should be picked for Barcelona — Steve Brace — and another who could — Sam Carey — Evans said he would be seeking a place in the ADT London Marathon in April.

As Brace, Britain's most successful marathon runner in 1991 and surely the first name on the selectors' list for the Games, will also be racing in the capital, Evans will have a chance to lend weight to the view that it would have been wiser to wait until after the London Marathon before picking the team.

It was a clinical victory that Evans delivered yesterday. Once a lead group of five had separated from the masses, he was the only one among them not to offer himself to set the pace. But when, at 10½ miles, he went into attack, he tore the heart from the group. By 11 miles he led by 13 seconds, at 12 miles by 23 seconds. At the end of the 14½-mile point-to-point course, he was 35 seconds clear, recording 69min 35sec. Carey, Britain's highest-placed finisher in the world championship marathon in Tokyo, was second in 70:10 and Brace, winner of the Berlin Marathon in September, third in 70:25.

In the marathon, the Evans engine finally ran smooth three months ago after an ignition fault. He failed to finish his first marathon, blew up in his second but, in his third in Carpi, Italy, in October, he ran 2hr 12min

55sec, an Olympic qualifying time. Still, though, there are too many names ahead of him to merit optimism for his Barcelona selection, though Brace did not rule him out.

"He has proved himself over the marathon and is becoming a top road racer," Brace said. "It could be that they will be influenced by his win here. I do not know how the selectors would view it. Do they just look at marathon performance? I would think they do."

Though the Morpeth to Newcastle race is 12 miles short of a marathon, it is more demanding than the distance suggests. Once again the winds buffeted the runners. "It is a strong man's race," Brace said.

"I do not think I will get picked for the Olympics but it is up to me to go to London and prove the selectors wrong," Evans said. That would be an undesired punch on the noses of those who believe that the best chance of Olympic medals is to give athletes at least six months' notice of selection. It is eight years since a British man has won an international championship medal in the marathon, and something, it was felt, had to be done.

However, some internationalists, including Brace and Hugh Jones, believe that selection should take place after London. An option for the selectors could be to leave the third place open until after London. "I want to run 2:10 in London," Evans said. No British marathon runner has been under 2:10 for three years.

Women's selection is more clear-cut, with places certain to go to Sally Eastall, Veronique Marot and Sally Ellis. However, Marot made a disappointing start to the year yesterday and was well beaten by Lynn Harding to the finish line in Newcastle.

RESULTS: Marc, 1. P. Evans (Belgrave), 69:35; 2. S. Carey (Warrington), 70:10; 3. B. Brace (Bridport), 70:25; 4. A. Green (Warrington), 71:02; 5. M. Puri (Telford), 71:02; 6. P. Fleming (Racing Club), 71:04; 7. M. Jones (Houghton), 71:05; 8. V. Marot (Leeds), 71:07; 9. C. Nobby (Houghton), 71:07.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Schofield sinks Salford

Leeds 36
Salford 10

BY KEITH MACKLIN

WITHOUT the steady influence and driving leadership of Ellery Hanley, Leeds tend to come and go in fits and starts. This is particularly true in defence, where they are often vulnerable in the early stages of matches.

Leeds stay on top of the first division of the Stones Bitter championship as a result of this apparently comfortable success but there were times in the first half when the home defence opened up all too easily to the lively Salford raiders.

Approaching half-time, Salford were leading 10-6 and again probing the Headingley line. Tries by Evans and Reynolds had given the visitors a deserved advance

tage and every hope of gaining revenge for defeat in the Regal Trophy semi-finals.

But Schofield, who had scored the first Leeds try, began to take control and Leeds sneaked into a 12-10 lead at the interval when Bentley scooted down the wing and hurled a pass inside hoping someone would be on the receiving end. Creaser was and he went 25 metres for the touchdown, with Irving kicking his second goal.

In the second half, Salford fell away drastically and Leeds achieved a breathing space at 18-10 when Bentley took advantage of another piece of Schofield skill to score.

Salford then folded and, in a typical purple patch of Leeds attacking, they scored four more tries. Bentley claimed a second and Dixon, Ford and Carl Gibson ran through a Salford defence



Windsor upset: Shu Fly masters Royal Derby, a 100-30 on shot, at the last in the New Year's Day Hurdle

Shu Fly repays the bookmakers

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE big bookmakers enjoyed the best possible start to 1992 at Windsor yesterday when all six favourites were beaten, including Royal Derby who was sent off at 100-30 to win the day's feature race.

With four of the races being televised, the results provided the off-course layers with a bumper payout and just reward for coming together to sponsor most of the meeting.

Hugo Bevan, clerk of the course, wrote without success to 40 companies and banks seeking sponsorship for the televised meeting. Ladbrokes, William Hill, Coral and the Tote then agreed to provide around £23,000 backing, which helped pay the £25,000 bill for enticing Channel 4 to the track.

Sally Oliver had not had a winner for 52 days but Shu Fly was always travelling sweetly behind Royal Derby in the William Hill New Year's Day Hurdle.

Ridden by Alan Jones, at 6ft 2½in the tallest jumps

jockey by far, Shu Fly swept into the lead at the last to floor the odds-on favourite.

The handicapper is likely to take a dim view of the eight-year-old's surprise victory but Henry Oliver, husband of the trainer, was not too worried. "He's going chasing soon so it doesn't matter. That was almost certainly his last hurdle race."

The day of doom and gloom for punters began when Sooner Still, the odds-on favourite in the opening Royal Windsor Handicap

chase, faded tamely two fences from home to allow in Brave Defender.

"The front-runner seemed to stop which helped," John White, the winning trainer, said. "Mine is a bit of a thinker and not really a gambling proposition. But Windsor is very lucky for me."

Egypt Mill Prince was the subject of a heavy early-morning gamble in the Tote Credit Handicap Hurdle but could not cope with Tiger Claw, Ron Hodges's dual-purpose six-year-old.

Tiger Claw is owned by Unity Farm Holiday Centre and 800 diners at the company's leisure centre were urged to back the horse on New Year's Eve.

On paper, the Coral Novices' Handicap Chase was one of the worst contests of the Christmas holiday period but the race was run in a time less than half a second outside the track record as Holtermann, running for the first time for two years, stormed home at 25-1.

Lydia Clay, the winning trainer, has an eight-horse string and admits it is not easy to survive "but we struggle along because we love it."

Repaldo was backed down from 7-1 to 7-2 joint-favourite with Cosmic Dancer as supporters of Ron Hodges's yard went for a double in the Ladbrokes January Sale Handicap Hurdle. But the favourites' jinx struck again as Repaldo finished third behind Welsh Siren.

Iama Zula completed the hangover for favourite backers when following Be Surprised in the Echinswell Handicap Chase.

Kings Fountain rests

KINGS Fountain is to be rested by his trainer, Kim Bailey, following his defeat at Wetherby on Boxing Day.

The strapping chaser, who emerged as a Cheltenham Gold Cup contender with impressive wins in the H & T Walker and A F Budge Gold Cups, has lacked his usual sparkle since being beaten by Stay On Tracks in the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase.

"Tests have revealed nothing

but he has been very quiet indeed since his last race and it must have taken a lot out of him," Bailey said. "He was lifeless when we saddled him that day and we were a bit concerned about him then."

□ The Queen Mother and trainer Cath Walwyn registered their first successes of the season when Furry Knowe won the David Garrett Memorial Novices' Chase at Devon yesterday.

SPORTS LETTERS

TABLE TENNIS

Absentee Preen holds key

BY RICHARD EATON

THE absence of Carl Preen, England's No. 1, from all but two of the seven matches in the tour by China may be crucial to English hopes of winning a series against the Chinese for the first time.

Preen is a tactically astute hard-working player, plying his trade in Germany. He was absent again last night, from the fourth match of the series at the Concorde Leisure Centre, Sheffield, preferring to rest in the middle of a hard season's schedule — providing England with a harder task to keep on level terms till his return in the final match of the series next Tuesday at Bletchley.

Were England to achieve such parity, a triumph in the series would be very much on the cards, as was shown by the 4-2 success at Bourne-mouth on Sunday when Preen won one of his singles and the deciding doubles with Alan Cooke.

Cooke was the man who clinched victory when England scored their first success in a complete match against China, three years ago at Gillingham, when the arena was filled with patriotic shouting and stamping.

Although the England No. 2, lost twice in three matches in this series to Yu Shentong, the English open champion, after five previous wins against him, he is currently playing some of the most aggressive table tennis of his career.

Another key to English hopes lies in the extent to which the stamina of Chen Xinghua, who will be 32 this month, holds up. The former Chinese international, now representing England from his base in Yorkshire, magnificently won both his singles in the 4-3 victory but lost to the same player in the 4-0 defeat at Hereford the next day, when weariness was beginning to become apparent.

Injury should be reported

From Mr George Crawford

Sir, The letter by Edward Grayson (December 26) prompts me to write in support of his appeal for sports men and women to report criminal injuries on the field of play to police as soon as practicable.

While players might not think it "sporting" to report such matters to the police, they should remember that injuries have a bad habit of getting worse, rather than better, and in the case of eye injuries, could well result in the victim losing sight and maybe his or her job.

A punch in a game is no different to one thrown outside the Rose and Crown on a Saturday night. On those occasions the suspect is arrested and in a great number of cases appears before magistrates or judges to account for his actions. If convicted, the defendant stands a good chance of ending up in prison.

Why should we treat thugs on a sports field any less severely? The time has come to silence those who say "it is all part of the game" and, in doing so, to ensure that other players are properly protected.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE CRAWFORD,
23 Clifton Close,
Worcester Park,
Surrey.

From the Deputy Chief Executive of the Professional Footballers' Association
Sir, While I would not seek to

take issue with Mr Edward Grayson over the legal content of his letter, it was based on an inaccurate report.

The Professional Footballers' Association has long recognised that its members are subject to the law of the land. In the past we have advised a number of members to make claims to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. We always seek to look after their interests and, to that end, we both inform them of their legal rights and give them access to free legal advice.

John Uzzell was treated no differently from any other member. When I heard of the incident (which I did not witness) from the PFA delegate at Torquay United FC, I advised Uzzell to speak to our lawyers. Contrary to Mr Grayson's information, Uzzell took this advice and spoke at length to our lawyer, who advised him of all his rights, including the right to make a complaint to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Incidents involving members with conflicting interests are always sensitive. The PFA has to adopt a neutral position, but we will advise all members of their rights and do not seek to avoid the issue.

Yours faithfully,
BRENDON BATSON,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Professional Footballers' Association,
2 Oxford Court,
Lower Moseley Street,
Manchester 2.

Royal origins

From Mr F. J. R. Smith

Sir, There is a "real" or "royal" tennis court at Falkland Palace in Fife (letters, December 12, 26). The palace was one of the seats of the Scottish Court from James V, who died there, onwards and it was visited by both Charles I and Charles II.

Yours faithfully,
F. J. R. SMITH,
Barns Close,
Dure Lane,
North Molton,
Devon.

From Mr J. C. Sharp

Sir, While at the castle of Amboise in 1498, King Charles VIII of France was conducting his queen (Anne of Brittany) to a gallery so that she might watch a game of tennis in the fosse below. He struck his head against the lintel of a doorway so violently that he succumbed to his injuries a few hours later, at the age of 27.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. SHARP,
64 Poplar Avenue,
Edgaston,
Birmingham.

Time for coaching rethink

From Mr Roshan Salih

Sir, There has been plenty of talk about the need for a reduction in the size of English football's top division, as if the day it is reduced to 18 clubs the game will be cured of all its problems. While I would agree that a reduction is necessary, it is simply one element in a catalogue of problems.

England proudly reserves the right to be mentioned in the same breath as Germany, Italy, Brazil and Argentina as football's traditional world powers. However, England has failed to win an international tournament for over 25 years and has got close only once. The future does not look promising either and I fear that England may be stuck in world football's mediocre category, outside the leading teams. This is a particular shame, as the general standard is not high around the world at this moment. Furthermore, I do not believe this scenario will change until the mentality of England's one-dimensional coaches evolves.

The thoughtless, boring,

long-ball game, which predominates in the Football League, with its emphasis on workrate at the expense of skill, control, intelligence, passing of the ball and movement off it, together with the obsession with rigid formations, has manifested itself in contemporary players of appalling quality. Such tactics may work in the English league, but they will not at the higher level — a recent example being Arsenal's humiliation at the hands of only an average Benfica side.

Previous British success at this level has been based on the mastery of the continental game, combined with positive British attributes such as power and relentless attacking. This is the way to bring back major trophies to British soil — as Liverpool have proved — and the way to entertain. (By the way isn't that what sport is all about or am I being naive?)

Yours faithfully,
ROSHAN SALIH,
4 Min-yon Road,
Old Colwyn,
Cwyd.

Falling into trap

From Mr G. M. Shepherd

Sir, In his article on sporting "heroes" and "cejts" (December 26) Simon Barnes seems to have fallen into the very trap he accused the British public of falling into in an article a few days earlier. He assigns Andre Agassi to the "cejit" category purely on his performances in the Wimbledon and US open championships.

It is a pity that he ignored Agassi's fine performances in the Davis Cup and the Association of Tennis Professionals finals. Both in the semi-finals of the Davis Cup and in the ATP finals Agassi beat the Wimbledon champion, Michael Stich, without losing a set. He also beat Boris Becker in the ATP finals in the same manner and won

the only match for America in the finals of the Davis Cup in Lyons, under great pressure from a highly partisan and boisterous French crowd.

Yours faithfully,
G. M. SHEPHERD,
Appletrees,
Compton's Brow Lane,
Horsham,
West Sussex.

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RESULTS AND TABLES

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP															
First division. Hatfield, 18. Bradford, 26															
Hull 12, Hull Rn 15, Leeds 36, Seaford 10															
St Helens, Widnes 22, Wakefield 14															
Castledare 14, Warrington 5, Wigan 24															
W	P	D	L	F	A	Pts	W	P	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Leeds	14	10	0	3	321	189	21	Wigan	14	10	0	3	313	329	20
Wigan	14	10	0	3	313	329	20	St Helens	15	9	0	5	286	297	19
Widnes	15	8	0	5	286	297	19	Hull	13	9	0	5	286	297	19
Hull	13	9	0	5	286	297	19	Bradford	14	7	0	6	272	273	16
Bradford	14	7	0	6	272	273	16	Seaford	14	7	0	6	272	273	16
Seaford	14	7	0	6	272	273	16	Wakefield	14	6	0	7	177	226	13
Wakefield	14	6	0	7	177	226	13	Hull Rn	14	6	0	7	177	226	13
Hull Rn	14	6	0	7	177	226	13	Hatfield	14	6	0	7	177	226	13
Hatfield	14	6	0	7	177	226	13	Leeds Rn	14	6	0	7	177	226	13
Leeds Rn	14	6	0	7	177	226	13	Bradford Rn	14	6	0	7	177	226	13
Bradford Rn	14	6	0	7	177	226	13	Warrington	14	5	0	9	243	309	10
Warrington	14	5	0	9	243	309	10	Castledare	14	5	0	9	243	309	10
Castledare	14	5	0	9	243	309	10	Seaford Rn	14	5	0	9	243	309	10
Seaford Rn	14	5	0	9	243	309	10	Widnes Rn	14	5	0	9	243	309	10
Widnes Rn	14	5	0	9	243	309	10	Swinton	13	4	0	11	125	343	8
Swinton	13	4	0	11	125	343	8								

Lough															
Sheffield, 11															
Oldham															
Barnsley															
London Crus															
Warrington															
Workington															
Ryedale vs															
W	P	D	L	F	A	Pts	W	P	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Sheffield	14	10	0	3	278	214	21	Warrington	14	10	0	3	278	214	21
Warrington	14	10	0	3	278	214	21	London Crus	14	10	0	3	278	214	21
London Crus	14	10	0	3	278	214	21	Warrington	14	10	0	3	278	214	21
Warrington	14	10	0	3	278	214	21	Workington	14	10	0	3	278	214	21
Workington	14	10	0	3	278	214	21	Ryedale vs	14	10	0	3	278	214	21
Ryedale vs	14	10	0	3	278	214	21								

THIRD DIVISION: Chorley, 36. Trafford, 18. Buxley, 12															
Humbleton, 23. Bramley 18															
W	P	D	L	F	A	Pts	W	P	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Humbleton	15	12	0	2	436	207	24	Chorley	14	10	0	3	313	329	20
Chorley	14	10	0	3	313	329	20	Buxley	14	10	0	3	313	329	20
Buxley	14	10	0	3	313	329	20	Humbleton	14	10	0	3	313	329	20
Humbleton	14	10	0	3	313	329	20	Dewsbury	14	11	0	2	427	171	23
Dewsbury	14	11	0	2	427	171	23	Bramley	14	9	0	4	345	144	14
Bramley	14	9	0	4	345	144	14	Sheffield	14	9	0	4	345	144	14
Sheffield	14	9	0	4	345	144	14	Barnsley	14	9	0	4	345	144	14
Barnsley	14	9	0	4	345	144	14	Warrington	14	8	0	5	315	188	18
Warrington	14	8	0	5	315	188	18	Sheffield	14	8	0	5	315	188	18
Sheffield	14	8	0	5	315	188	18	Keighley	13	7	0	6	303	199	17
Keighley	13	7	0	6	303	199	17	Scarbrough	14	8	0	5	301	215	16
Scarbrough	14	8	0	5	301	215	16								

SECOND DIVISION: Leigh 23, Oldham 12

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PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

National Park Officer

The appointment of Michael Dower as Director General of the Countryside Commission leaves vacant the most challenging post in the management of Britain's National Parks.

Applications are invited for the job of National Park Officer with the Peak Park Joint Planning Board, which is the National Park Authority and unitary planning body for Britain's first National Park.

The post, leading a staff of 300 and overseeing a budget of £7 million, requires proven managerial ability and wide experience of countryside matters. It is not restricted to any one discipline, but the postholder is likely to possess a degree, or a professional or management qualification, together with at least ten years relevant experience.

Local government experience at a senior level and knowledge of the National Park system in England and Wales are desirable, but applicants who have gained relevant management experience in other fields will also be considered. The Peak Park Joint Planning Board is an equal opportunities employer.

Salary scale: £38,007 to £42,897 pa plus car allowance and relocation package.

Full details and application forms from Personnel Officer, National Park Office, Aldem House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE4 1AE (0629) 814321. The closing date for applications is 20 January 1992.

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UPDATE

Moths get brush off

AUSTRALIAN scientists have bred sheep that secrete insect-repellent, which will protect clothes made of their wool from moths. Oliver Mayo, a geneticist in the country's national scientific organisation, says the sheep will not need to be dipped to protect them against costly insect-borne diseases such as flystrike.

Drug starch ruse

THE latest trick used by drug smugglers is to turn cocaine into a form of starch and dip their clothes in it before going through customs. *The Miami Herald* has reported. Cocaine paste is dissolved in petrol. The clothes are soaked in the solution and allowed to dry for several weeks until the smell goes. Later the clothes are dipped in petrol again. When the cocaine rises to the surface, it is skimmed off.

Hope for hips

SURGEONS at the University of Virginia have devised a method of setting broken hip bones without the usual operation and without the patient needing weeks of rest. They use body scanners to guide them as they introduce tiny screws into a fracture, which hold the bone together until it heals. Patients typically recover within seven days.

Fusion reigns

RESEARCH at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Bombay may shed light on the cold fusion controversy. Scientists there report in the *Indian Journal of Technology* that palladium metal loaded with hydrogen or deuterium emits large amounts of low energy radiation. There is no direct evidence to suggest that the radiation is caused by cold fusion, they add, suggesting that some process connected with the lattice of the palladium atoms may be responsible.

Undersea maps

THE first maps of the entire seabed of the United States, made with the help of British scientists, show undersea landscapes and a huge lava flow off Hawaii. The US Geological Survey has announced.

Stubble that farmers used to burn could have a commercial value. Mick Hurrell lists the possible new uses

Old straw goes into business



Goodbye to all that: with stubble burning now banned, Dr Bolton, right, and his colleagues at Bangor have found ways of using straw by-products in industry

reagent, these cells become water-resistant, strongly bonding super-fibres, says Dr James Bolton, the centre's director.

As its name suggests, the reagent does two jobs. One end of a molecule of the reagent, which is typically a di-isocyanate, a raw material for polyurethane, binds with the water-loving hydroxyl groups in the cells, making them water-resistant. This leaves the reagent's other active element free to bond either with other cells or with surrounding materials, forming a chemical bond.

Dr Bolton says: "Conventional wisdom says that a fibre's aspect ratio — length to diameter — is the important factor in transferring

stresses. The reality is that by the time we have finished with our fibres, we have a more reactive surface than conventional glass or carbon. So that may well change the rules.

"Our fibres have comparable strength per unit weight, are water-resistant and can readily bond to each other or to surrounding material. These fibres can be produced for half the cost of glass and nearly a fortieth the price of carbon fibre."

Dr Bolton says composites made with organic fibres would be recyclable, which would be increasingly important in such industries as car manufacturing. He says: "Organic fibre is combus-

ible, so when it can be recycled no further you can still recover its energy content.

"That is where we stand to win against glass. It is never going to make Rolls-Royce turbine blades but it will fill the middle ground, particularly in areas where existing materials tend to be used for reasons of weight."

Researchers at the centre have found five valuable components in straw: long fibres, short fibres, waxes, polysaccharides and silica, all with industrial applications. They are developing technologies for a pilot integrated straw-processing plant to extract these



fibres and chemicals. While long fibres might be useful for composite plastics, paper-making or fibreboard manufacture, short fibres can be used as bulk fillers in bitumen and paint or as a source of cellulose feedstock.

Some pulped straw fibre is already used by the paper industry. As with pulped wood, however, the process produces liquid effluent, which has always been viewed as a troublesome pollutant.

The plant will integrate pulping with extraction of other by-products dissolved in the waste stream. The researchers have isolated sugar-based polysaccharides chains such as cellulose for making food packaging — these get

round the use of potentially harmful plasticiser compounds, which can pass into food.

The centre has also patented a food-grade wax derived from cellulose. This is combined with waxes found naturally in straw to form compounds that can directly replace existing petrochemical waxes in the food chain. The final waste stream component, silica, has a market as a filtering material used in processes such as brewing.

"Plants and biofibres have many potential applications," Dr Bolton says. "If we can use these materials with the confidence and ingenuity we have with man-made materials, then we have responded to a terrific challenge."



Horns of a dilemma that conservationists believe they have solved

Saving the rhino with a chainsaw

Conservationists in Africa are cutting horns off rhinos to halt the poachers

WILDLIFE authorities in Namibia and Zimbabwe are trying to stop poachers killing rhinoceroses for their horns by sawing off the horns themselves. The technique also offers scientists a wealth of data about the black and white rhino.

The horn, which consists of densely packed hair fibre and is prized as an aphrodisiac in Chinese medicine, grows back at two or three inches a year, and monitoring in Namibia suggests that rhinos without their horns behave normally.

Zimbabwe's stock of about 1,500 black rhinos is the world's

last viable wild population of the species. The authorities do not yet know whether dehorning is deterring poachers, but it has allowed scientists to learn more about the biology of rhinos.

The rhinos are hit with darts containing a narcotic fired from a helicopter. As soon as the animals are sedated, researchers measure their size and take blood samples to assess blood cell count, parasites, kidney and liver

enzymes, and antibodies against diseases such as trypanosomiasis, or sleeping sickness.

Dr Mike Kock, the Zimbabwe wildlife department's veterinarian, has learnt much about dealing with stress in captured animals, which has been the greatest drawback in large-scale capture in Africa. Capture causes blood to surge to the muscles, to fuel a rapid escape. If an animal is immobilised for a

long time, vital organs can be deprived of blood and the animal can die.

Using oxygen to aid breathing, and a chainsaw to remove the horn rapidly and reduce stress, has helped greatly. Horns can be removed in ten minutes and the animal back on its feet without ill-effects.

The main worry about dehorning is whether it will reduce the ability of cows to defend their calves from predators. Rhinos make poor mothers, often abandoning calves under stress.

JAN RAATH

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Where required, our comprehensive relocation package, including Home Sale Scheme, is designed to assist you both financially and personally in your move to Aberdeen.

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The successful candidate will be a native German speaker, able to demonstrate the capacity to develop the coherent strategies necessary to increase market penetration, particularly amongst OEMs. Strong leadership qualities are necessary to invigorate the sales team and improve all aspects of customer service in both direct sales and those through distributors. Ideally, applicants will have substantial managerial experience in the sale of power transmission products, and will certainly be strong on industrial sales of engineering products in an international environment. A mechanical engineering qualification would help evince confidence on technical sales aspects. The high level of investment undertaken and planned in modernising production facilities will continue to improve market competitiveness.

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Reporting to the Director of Operations, the successful applicant will take responsibility for the planning and implementation of the company's marketing activities and for the recruitment and qualification of franchisees. He or she will therefore have bluechip marketing experience, preferably a knowledge of franchising and the personal qualities of ambition, energy and flexibility needed by a young dynamic company.

Salary will depend on age and experience. A company car is included in the package.

Applicants should send a full CV to: Keith Norman, Chairman, Nevada Bob (UK) Ltd., Staples Corner Retail Park, Corston Way, Edgware Road, London NW2 6LW.

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday, January 10. Settlement day January 20. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Bank of America	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Bank of Montreal	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Bank of New York	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Bank of Toronto	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Bank of Victoria	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Bank of Western	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Bank of Commerce	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Bank of Montreal	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Bank of New York	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Bank of Toronto	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Chemical Bank	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Chemical Bank	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Chemical Bank	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Chemical Bank	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Chemical Bank	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Chemical Bank	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Chemical Bank	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Chemical Bank	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Chemical Bank	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Chemical Bank	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Brewery Bank	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Brewery Bank	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Brewery Bank	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Brewery Bank	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Brewery Bank	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Brewery Bank	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Brewery Bank	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Brewery Bank	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Brewery Bank	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Brewery Bank	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Building Bank	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Building Bank	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Building Bank	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Building Bank	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Building Bank	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Building Bank	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Building Bank	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Building Bank	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Building Bank	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Building Bank	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Drapery Bank	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Drapery Bank	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Drapery Bank	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Drapery Bank	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Drapery Bank	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Drapery Bank	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Drapery Bank	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Drapery Bank	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Drapery Bank	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Drapery Bank	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Electricity Bank	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Electricity Bank	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Electricity Bank	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Electricity Bank	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Electricity Bank	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Electricity Bank	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Electricity Bank	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Electricity Bank	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Electricity Bank	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Electricity Bank	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Finance Bank	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Finance Bank	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Finance Bank	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Finance Bank	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Finance Bank	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Finance Bank	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Finance Bank	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Finance Bank	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Finance Bank	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Finance Bank	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Financial Bank	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Financial Bank	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Financial Bank	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Financial Bank	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Financial Bank	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Financial Bank	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Financial Bank	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Financial Bank	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Financial Bank	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Financial Bank	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Food Bank	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Food Bank	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Food Bank	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Food Bank	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Food Bank	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Food Bank	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Food Bank	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Food Bank	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Food Bank	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Food Bank	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Hotel Bank	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Hotel Bank	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Hotel Bank	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Hotel Bank	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Hotel Bank	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Hotel Bank	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Hotel Bank	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Hotel Bank	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Hotel Bank	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Hotel Bank	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Industrial Bank	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Industrial Bank	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Industrial Bank	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Industrial Bank	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Industrial Bank	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Industrial Bank	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Industrial Bank	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Industrial Bank	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Industrial Bank	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Industrial Bank	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Insurance Bank	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Insurance Bank	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Insurance Bank	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Insurance Bank	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Insurance Bank	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Insurance Bank	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Insurance Bank	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Insurance Bank	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Insurance Bank	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Insurance Bank	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Investment Bank	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Investment Bank	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Investment Bank	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Investment Bank	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Investment Bank	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Investment Bank	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Investment Bank	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Investment Bank	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Investment Bank	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Investment Bank	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

LEISURE

High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
100.00	99.00	Leisure Bank	100.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
98.00	97.00	Leisure Bank	98.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
96.00	95.00	Leisure Bank	96.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
94.00	93.00	Leisure Bank	94.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
92.00	91.00	Leisure Bank	92.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
90.00	89.00	Leisure Bank	90.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
88.00	87.00	Leisure Bank	88.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
86.00	85.00	Leisure Bank	86.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
84.00	83.00	Leisure Bank	84.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5
82.00	81.00	Leisure Bank	82.00	+0.10	5.50	15.5

MINING

22	9.98	109 ^{1/2}	54 ^{1/2}
22	10.08	119 ^{1/2}	113 ^{1/2}
22	10.17	101 ^{1/2}	62 ^{1/2}
22	10.25	104 ^{1/2}	64 ^{1/2}
22	10.19	62 ^{1/2}	53 ^{1/2}
22	6.51	100 ^{1/2}	60 ^{1/2}
22	10.04	111	102
22	10.10	100 ^{1/2}	105 ^{1/2}
22	10.05	121 ^{1/2}	111
22	9.63	88 ^{1/2}	79 ^{1/2}
22	9.99	95 ^{1/2}	84 ^{1/2}
22	10.22	115 ^{1/2}	105 ^{1/2}
22	10.28	98	89 ^{1/2}

America abandons veto on Bae sales to Iran

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND ROSS TIEMAN IN LONDON

THE Bush administration has abandoned its controversial refusal to allow British Aerospace to sell civil aircraft to Iran. There has been no announcement but reliable Washington sources said Lawrence Eagleburger, the deputy secretary of state, had approved a commerce department decision to permit the sales.

The administration's change of heart might have come too late to rescue Bae's contract to sell an Iranian airline up to 12 Bae 146 regional jets. Washington's approval is important, however, as the company is understood to be pursuing several other contracts in the Iranian market.

The about-turn will also remove a rare bone of contention between London and Washington. The administration imposed its veto last July despite sustained British lobbying and the personal intervention of Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. The American decision was publicly criticised by ministers, who pointed out that Washington had approved the sale to Iran of Dutch Fokker 100 aircraft with similar amounts of American components.

Mr Eagleburger's decision was clearly facilitated by the

recent release of the last American hostages held by Iranian-backed groups in Lebanon and the return of the remains of two Americans who died in captivity there. This alleviated the administration's earlier fears of a congressional outcry if it allowed the sales.

However, the commerce department had separately decided that the 146 contained too few American components to breach the 10 per cent threshold above which its approval was required for selling products to countries that sponsored terrorism. It had originally assessed the 146 as having 16 per cent American parts, but later decided the American-made engine should not be counted as it was licensed for production before the legislation came into effect.

British Aerospace was hoping to sell Iran four 146s, worth between \$100 million and \$150 million, and options on eight additional aircraft. Two weeks ago, the company was sufficiently encouraged to send three demonstration aircraft to Iran to go through their paces.

Iran has a fleet of ageing Boeing 707s to replace. The 146, which can carry up to 120 passengers, would help to improve links within the country and with neighbouring states.



Approval: Lawrence Eagleburger, deputy secretary

MCC deal avoids Anglo-US legal battle

BY NEIL BENNETT

THE High Court in London has approved a co-operation deal between Price Waterhouse and a New York lawyer for the running of Maxwell Communication Corporation, the media group.

Robin Potts QC, counsel for PW, revealed in court on Tuesday that the agreement is essentially one of power-sharing between PW, administrator of MCC, and Richard Gidlin, a Connecticut lawyer appointed under American bankruptcy laws as MCC's examiner.

The agreement is expected to be endorsed by the New York bankruptcy court tomorrow. Mr Potts said the administrators and Mr Gidlin had worked out a *modus vivendi* for the harmonisation of British and American insolvency laws. The deal makes history, being the first time a company has been placed simultaneously in administration in Britain and chapter 11 protection in America.

Under the terms of the agreement, the High Court confirmed Mr Gidlin's appointment as examiner, and he and his team will work with PW's accountants on a reconstruction plan.

Colin Bird and the other PW administrators have won their battle for corporate governance, or overall control of MCC, but have been forced to make important concessions to Mr Gidlin to allow him to monitor their performance and block any move with which he disagrees. PW cannot order any liquidations or make disposals worth more than £25 million without the approval of Mr Gidlin or the American courts.

Both the administrators and the examiner have the right to appear in court in Britain or America. Mr Gidlin has the right to investigate the assets and liabilities of MCC, but must defer to any investigations under way by PW. He also has the right to appoint solicitors, accountants and merchant bankers to advise him.

The agreement secures the position of David Shaffer, the head of Macmillan, MCC's largest subsidiary. Mr Potts said the administrators and Mr Gidlin would work to ensure Mr Shaffer remains in executive control of Macmillan and the Official Airlines Guides in America. MCC's other directors lose their executive powers.

PW hopes the agreement will allow it to start trying to reconstruct MMC, which owes the banks £1.3 billion. Numerous disposals are expected.

Legal landmarks cloud Lloyd's brighter horizon

For Lloyd's, fighting its corner in the harsh commercial environment of the insurance industry, this will be a vital year.

Above all, Lloyd's needs to see an accelerated continuation of the hardening in insurance rates that began last year if it is to reverse the outflow of names from the market. Twelve months ago, most senior Lloyd's figures were confidently predicting a sharp upturn in the insurance cycle and a return to profitable underwriting during the course of the year.

Now, 1991 is being seen as something of a disappointment, with early indications suggesting a break-even year rather than a runaway success. The upturn came late and only affected certain classes of business. Profit warnings from Sturge and AJ Archer, the two main publicly quoted underwriting agencies, about their 1991 results gives an indication of how much further there is to go before the dark days of Lloyd's are banished.

By far the most disappointing market within Lloyd's was non-marine, where property rates, in particular commercial fire rates, have seen little upward movement. Increases in other areas, such as liability and professional indemnity, are described as "adequate" by John Wetherell, the outgoing chairman of the Lloyd's Underwriters' Non-Marine Association.

While the market suffered none of the cataclysmic natural and man-made disasters of earlier years, there was still a sufficient sprinkling of smaller, but still very large, losses to make life uncomfortable for non-marine underwriters. These included the Calgary hailstorm, hurricane Bob, and the Californian fires, all in the last three months of the year.

With the LMX reinsurance market still dramatically depleted, a far greater proportion of these losses than in the past will fall on the direct insurers and their primary reinsurers. The result has been a continuing shake out in the non-marine market, with perhaps 20 out of 180 syndicates disappearing this year and, according to Mr Wetherell, lower capacity. Whether this will be sufficient to give rates the kick start they really need remains to be seen.

Mr Wetherell believes that rises of between 25 and 100 per cent are necessary if "awful ramifica-

tions" are to be avoided. However, the general perception is that the non-marine market is lagging a year or two behind the rest of the market and that, in time, rates will pick up.

In the marine market, last year has been a far more promising year, with rate increases coming through strongly, although perhaps a little late in the year for comfort. That process is widely expected to continue this year.

On the pure marine hull business, rises of between 25 and 40 per cent have been typical, though in the case of policyholders with poorer claims records, the hikes have been as high as 150 per cent. Just as importantly, the terms of the policies have changed significantly in the underwriters' favour. For example, the notorious "additional perils" coverage, which brought every petty act of crew negligence under the umbrella of the policy, has been largely withdrawn.

Worldwide premium income is estimated to have risen from a base of about \$350 million to last year's level of between \$700 and \$800 million. As a very rough rule of thumb, losses have run at an average annual rate of about \$1 billion in recent years. So it looks as if it will be at least another year before the aviation account at Lloyd's returns to profit.

Meanwhile, among the wreckage of huge losses in other sectors, the motor market chugs along nicely, and profitably. According to Colin White, of the Lloyd's Motor Underwriters' Association, rates started moving in late summer, accelerating through the autumn and "exploding" from October onwards.

The process continues and is expected to go on through the first half of this year. Year on year, the rate increases by December are about 25 per cent, with at least a further 10 per cent to come. Given that in 1988 only one of the 30 motor syndicates at Lloyd's incurred a loss, these figures suggest a bright outlook for 1992.

Overall, the prospects for Lloyd's in pure financial terms are better than they have been since the mid-Eighties. The recovery is undoubtedly under way, although it is patchy and painfully slow in some accounts. The flood of claims between 1988 and 1990 may be receding, but it has left a grim high watermark of losses, open years and litigation.

Jonathan Pryn



Lloyd's vital year

In addition, the deductibles — the amount of the loss that has to be borne by the assured — have been increased by between 100 and 200 per cent. This has removed most of the small, attritional claims that accounted for the vast majority of total marine hull claims.

The marine cargo market has been slower to react, according to Ian Agnew, the chairman of IC Agnew Underwriting, with rates showing little movement so far. This is because the insured limits are lower, placing fewer demands on market capacity. Only when loss-making underwriters finally give up cargo as a bad lot will the market significantly improve. That may take some time yet.

In the energy account, there have been improvements in rates and conditions, and, barring any appalling losses on the scale of Piper Alpha, there should be a return to profit next year, according to Mr

Ukraine applies for full membership of IMF

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON

UKRAINE has become the first member of the new commonwealth of former Soviet republics to apply to join the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Full membership could give Ukraine access to millions of dollars in loans to help it to build a market economy, instead of simply the advice and technical assistance that are all the two financial institutions can offer at present.

As a condition of those loans, Ukraine would have to follow an economic reform plan approved by the IMF.

In a letter to the World Bank, Leonid Kravchuk, the Ukrainian president, said he was confident that his application would be accepted and his country would thus be permitted to play "an appropriate role in the global economy".

The Baltic states — Estonia,

Lithuania and Latvia — which gained their independence at the end of last summer, have already become members, and applications are expected soon from Russia and the other newly independent republics.

The Soviet Union had special associate membership but its early summer application for full membership made little progress. Officials said Ukraine's application would be processed as quickly as possible, but full membership could still take some months.

Among other things, the IMF has to decide what shareholding Ukraine should be allocated, a decision normally based on data, such as past economic performance, that will be very difficult to compile in the case of the former republics.

The size of the shareholding helps to determine

the size of potential loans. On Monday, John Major, the prime minister, urged Russia and other members of the new Commonwealth of Independent States to seek early membership of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

"Full membership will enable you to draw on the considerable financial resources of these institutions in support of an agreed reform programme," he told Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, in a letter.

President Bush has said that America will support membership of the two bodies for the new states, and IMF officials are already preparing economic reform plans for them.

One advantage for the industrialised nations is that they would be under less pressure to provide direct financial aid themselves.

Ratners' US rival teeters

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

ZALE Corporation, America's largest jeweller and the biggest competitor to the American operations of Britain's Ratners Group, is expected to seek the protection of the bankruptcy courts following a major reorganisation and an 11 per cent drop in Christmas takings.

Ratners was itself conspicuous by its absence from the year-end cheer on the London stock market, with a 3p fall to 27p.

Zale's creditors are threatening to force the store chain into bankruptcy after it unilaterally stopped payments to suppliers, bankers and bondholders on Monday, three days ahead of today's final deadline to make \$52 million in interest payments on debts of about \$1.2 billion.

Zale is closing 400 of its 2,000 stores and shedding 2,500 of the 12,500 workforce.

share of the year for 1992. He believes the selling has been overdone and he expects the dividend to be maintained despite the view to the contrary elsewhere. A maintained dividend would revive confidence in the shares and provide a rating likely to attract the income funds. The new constituents in the index include MB-Caradon, 10p better at 264p, Laporte, 35p higher at 620p, and Tomkins, 5p up at 410p.

The pharmaceutical sector was again a hot-bed of activity, prices continuing to make headway as brokers took the view that the sector will grow strongly in 1992. The big names were all chased high in thin trading. Wellcome attracted further support after this week's bullish news that the group had found a way of slowing down the death rate among AIDS sufferers during the first year of the disease with a cocktail

of drugs, made up of its own anti-Aids drug, Retrovir, and Zovirax, the anti-herpes treatment.

The shares finished 35p higher at another all-time high of £11.01 — rise on the week of so far of 137p. Analysts expect the new treatment to add an extra £100 million to sales in the long term.

Fisons continued to claw back Friday's losses with a rise of 15p to 320p. The shares were affected by reports in an American newsletter that the group's relationship with America's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was under strain because of increasing production problems.

Others to make headway included Glaxo, 40p to 853p, London International, 5p to 297p, Macarthy, 3p to 269p, Reckitt & Colman, 22p to 645p, and Smith & Nephew, 1p to 139p.

SmithKline Beecham's A shares climbed 43p to 995p as the group obtained FDA approval to market Relafen, its anti-inflammatory drug, in America.

The stores sector was bravely facing up to 1992, regardless of the persistent pessimism concerning consumers' confidence and the almost certain knowledge that Christmas had been something of a flop for the retailers.

There were improvements for Argos, 4p to 273p, Body Shop, 11p to 354p, Boots, 3p to 429p, Dixons, 8p to 205p, Great Universal Stores A, 26p to £14.15, Kingfisher, 15p to 482p, Marks and Spencer, 10p to 278p, Next, 2p to 57p, Sainsbury, 4p to 94p, and Sainsbury, 3p to 88p.

The A shares of WH Smith, which celebrates its 200th anniversary this year, advanced 6p to 450p.

MICHAEL CLARK

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN THE MARKETS

London's shares see 1991 out with a bang

ANOTHER record-breaking year overnight in New York enabled share prices in London to see the old year out with a bang. The equity market enjoyed its biggest one-day rise of the year after the Dow Jones industrial average's 62-point surge on Monday to yet another all-time high as American investors continued to take an optimistic view of the American economy.

The FT-SE 100 index advanced towards 2,500 but closed just below its best of the day with a rise of 73.1 points at 2,493.1. Its previous biggest one-day rise was October 1990, when it leapt by 73 points on the news that Britain was going to join the exchange rate mechanism.

The improvement on the year is an impressive 17 per cent. The index has now risen 135 points since the start of the Christmas week alone, wiping out the losses of the previous account.

Dealers said the advance had been partly fuelled by the expiration of the December FT-SE 100 index options and futures where there had been a number of short positions that needed to be covered. Trading in London, unlike New York, remained thin with only 306 million shares changing hands.

Market-makers had been anxious to maintain level trading positions over the holiday and this, combined with the end of the financial year for several securities houses, suited demand. However, despite the City's apparent euphoria, some traders are worried.

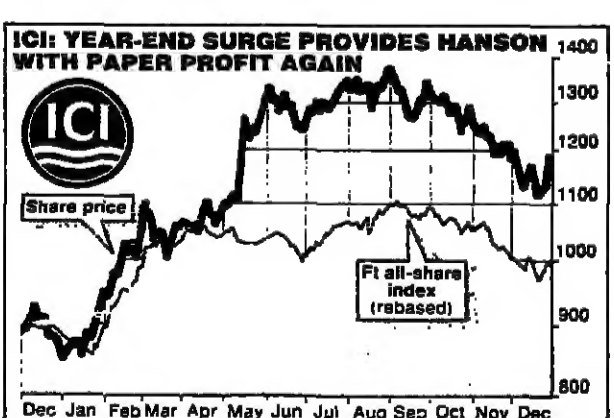
Wall Street is currently being revalued to reflect the increased optimism about the American economy. However, there is no such optimism about the British economy. The expected upturn is some

way off and the pound is still giving cause for concern on the foreign exchanges. Fund managers are also bracing themselves for further dividend cuts by leading companies this year.

Government securities enjoyed an early rally as the overseas selling, which featured strongly on Monday, dried up. But early gains of 1/2 at the longer end were eventually scaled back to 1/4.

As with the previous Wall Street-inspired gains, it was leading companies with an international flavour, or that have an American quotation, which made all the early running. Leading the way higher was ICI, with the shares 76p dearer at £12.10. That will be good news for Hanson, which is again enjoying a paper profit on its near 3 per cent investment in ICI, having paid £11.94 a share.

Others to make headway included BAT, 16p to 618p,



Rothmans International's B shares, 43p to £11.09, Unilever, 26p to 902p, Allied-Lyons, 24p to 619p, BTR, 18p to 399p, BOC Group, 21p to 610p, Guinness, 15p to 508p, Courtaulds, 27p to 505p, Grand Metropolitan, 26p to 882p, and Pearson, 23p to 698p.

The only company in the

top 100 to end lower on the day was BICC, down 9p at 303p, as the company faced up to the prospect of losing its position in the FT-SE 100 index. The shares were a weak market last year with analysts becoming increasingly bearish. But Graeme Cull at Kleinwort Benson, the broker, has made BICC his

500 stock index, which gained nearly 2 points to 417. The Nasdaq has surged nearly 57 per cent for the year, while the S&P 500 has gained 26 per cent. Thomas Walsh, the chief of trading at Nikko Securities, said the market's strong momentum could carry the Dow average to 3,200, which is now about 30 points away. He said: "Psychology and sentiment will cause a run to 3,200."

Analysis said that the market was overdue for some consolidation and some program selling put the sellers in control. But investors' desire to hold positions by the end of the year and some buy programs pulled the market higher in the late afternoon.

Other market indices rallying to all-time record closes included the Nasdaq composite, which rose 6.59 to 586.34 and the Standard & Poor's

4.5 per cent. An estimated 160 million shares traded during the shortened day.

Hong Kong — Shares closed at a record in half-day trading. The Hang Seng index closed 22.13 points higher at 4,297.33.

Singapore — The Straits Times industrial index closed at the day's high of 1,490.70, up 13.72 points.

Sydney — The all-or-includes closed 38.9 points higher at 1,651.4 after investors went on a buying spree.

Frankfurt — Closed for the New Year holiday. The market reopens today. (Reuters)

WALL STREET

	Dec 31	Dec 30	Dec 29	Dec 28	Dec 27	Dec 26	Dec 25	Dec 24	Dec 23	Dec 22	Dec 21	Dec 20	Dec 19	Dec 18	Dec 17	Dec 16	Dec 15	Dec 14	Dec 13	Dec 12	Dec 11	Dec 10	Dec 9	Dec 8	Dec 7	Dec 6	Dec 5	Dec 4	Dec 3	Dec 2	Dec 1	Nov 30	Nov 29	Nov 28	Nov 27	Nov 26	Nov 25	Nov 24	Nov 23	Nov 22	Nov 21	Nov 20	Nov 19	Nov 18	Nov 17	Nov 16	Nov 15	Nov 14	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9	Nov 8	Nov 7	Nov 6	Nov 5	Nov 4	Nov 3	Nov 2	Nov 1	Oct 31	Oct 30	Oct 29	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 24	Oct 23	Oct 22	Oct 21	Oct 20	Oct 19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sept 30	Sept 29	Sept 28	Sept 27	Sept 26	Sept 25	Sept 24	Sept 23	Sept 22	Sept 21	Sept 20	Sept 19	Sept 18	Sept 17	Sept 16	Sept 15	Sept 14	Sept 13	Sept 12	Sept 11	Sept 10	Sept 9	Sept 8	Sept 7	Sept 6	Sept 5	Sept 4	Sept 3	Sept 2	Sept 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 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When sterling's luck runs out

The prime minister will be crossing his fingers in hope that the confidence he expressed in his new year message will improve sentiment for the pound when markets reopen today after the long break. His reassurance that there will be no devaluation of the pound through a realignment within the European exchange-rate mechanism was intended for the ears of the currency dealers. For the test facing sterling from this morning and, more demanding, from Monday, when the Japanese market reopens, is whether or not the pound can continue to maintain some daylight above its ERM floor, with the lowest differential between German and British interest rates for more than a decade.

Mr Major's dismissal of the "fool's gold" of devaluation, and his careful elaboration of the loss of credibility such a move would entail, might appear as a mere prime ministerial booster to the Chancellor's talk-up of the pound. After all, it took only a few words from Norman Lamont on December 13 to give the pound a three-penny lift, without wasting a penny of reserves. The pledge then was not to emulate the Italians and use an eventual British move from 6 per cent ERM fluctuation bands to the 2.25 per cent margins for a sneak devaluation.

The Bundesbank's unseasonal Christmas gift of a half-point increase in its lombard and discount rates, later more than wiped out by the benefits from the Chancellor's verbal message. But Lady Luck, in the form of this currency markets during the festive season and the Bank of England's \$43 billion war chest for intervention, prevented any serious assault on the pound. The question is whether this luck will hold out or whether those ever-lauded market forces will put the government's resolve to the test. Given the elusiveness of the promised recovery, some currency analysts still believe the government can be stampeded into desperate action.

Current wisdom is that voters' perceptions of the economy will decide the election. Low inflation, the pyrrhic victory to emerge from deep recession, will be insufficient to demonstrate good management. This school of thought believes Mr Lamont could opt to slash interest rates American-style to ensure recovery. Pressure on sterling would be met by either moving to narrow bands, a *l'italiana*, or by securing a general ERM realignment. The alternative school of thought, now in the ascendancy in the City, will have been encouraged by Mr Major's remarks to believe that he intends to go to country with sterling at its present central rate of DM2.95. That not only means no devaluation, but assures the low-inflation and "steady" (read, sluggish) growth the prime minister declared as his main goals.

If the no-devaluation school is correct, the markets are certain to want base rates brought in line with money market rates. The Bank of England, as a skilled operator, knows it would be foolish to try to buck an earnest market for too long. Currently, the pound enjoys splendid isolation as the only ERM currency not to have followed the Bundesbank's tightening. Nobody appears to be seeking a general realignment that would allow Britain an escape hatch.

Mr Lamont has to choose between a Custer's Last Stand that will cost him his reserves, or retain the initiative with an early base-rate hike. The latter would demonstrate that the government has not been entirely out of action where monetary policy is concerned and would demonstrate its commitment to the ERM. Given the prospect of British inflation below that of Germany in the first quarter, a base rate rise could be quickly reversed, thus presenting no undue threat to the recovery we still await.

Douglas McWilliams
of the CBI forecasts

that Europe's economic
hangover will provide a
headache for the UK

It is tempting to be depressed with the Cheshire Cat recovery which faded away during 1991 and to react by surrounding any positive prediction for 1992 with the ambiguity of caveats.

Yet the conventional wisdom is that there will be some modest lifting of the clouds surrounding the economy in 1992 as inflation falls further, savings stop rising, government spending projects come on stream and business inventories get so low the shelves become bare and the storage tanks empty and need refilling.

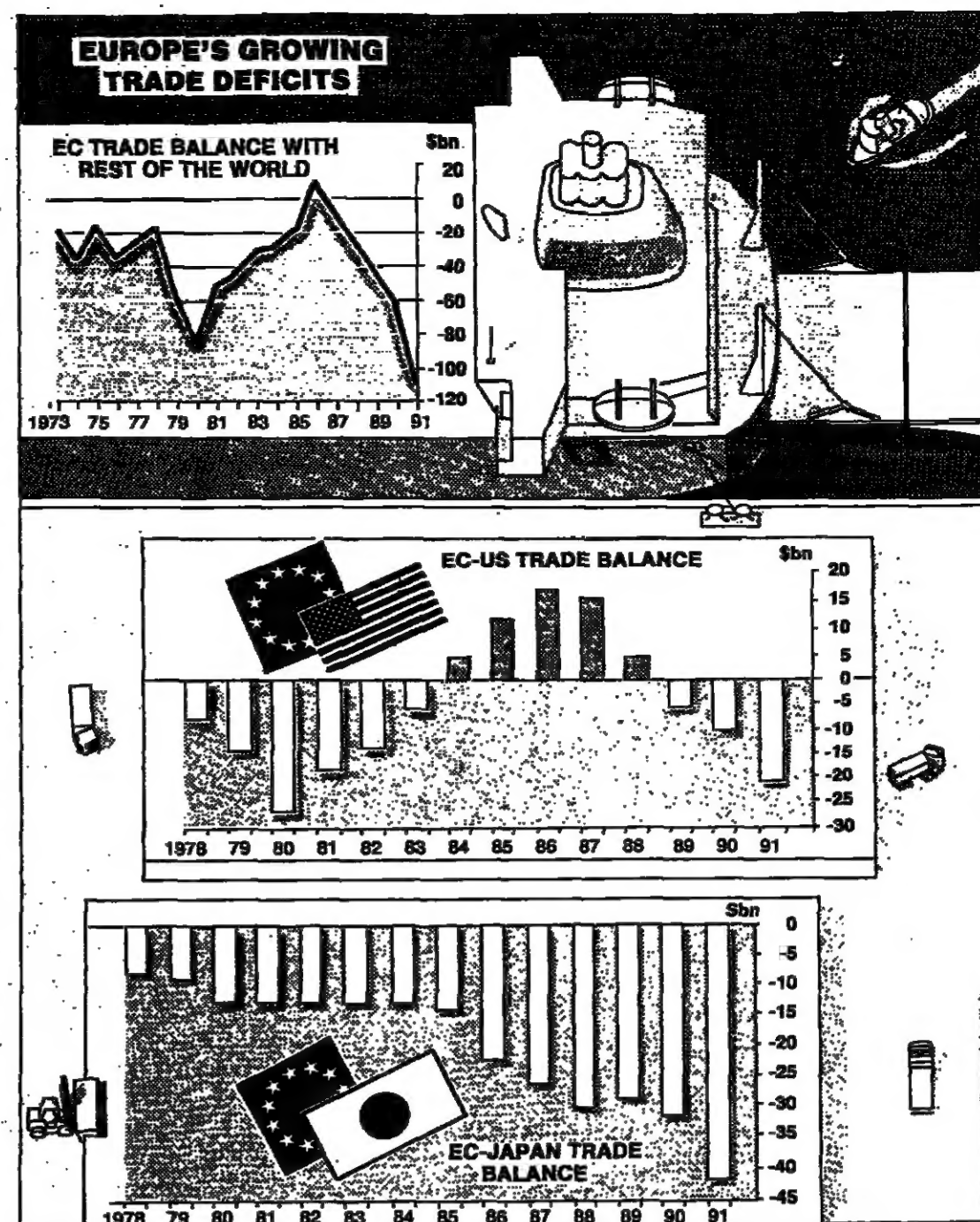
The United Kingdom will be held back by a weak world economy and particularly a European economy — taking more than 50 per cent of our exports — suffering from the hangover after the party of German unification. The feedthrough of this hangover to the other European countries is all the greater because we are in an uncomfortable intermediate stage: there is now effectively a single European currency but because the institutions of that single currency have not yet come into operation, interest rate policy is still decided by the Bundesbank.

It would be unrealistic to expect that the Bundesbank will run the single currency in anything other than the German interest — which is considered to be defeating inflation by high interest rates rather than by paying for the costs of unification in higher taxes. So high rates are the rule in Europe whatever the domestic economic conditions, until lower inflation emerges in Germany. This may not be until late 1992.

There is the theoretical option of a realignment of the European currency but too much credibility has been invested in maintaining the strength of most European currencies against the mark to be thrown away lightly. So growth in most of western Europe in 1992 will be poised somewhere between the slow and the non-existent. Moreover, many European countries are suffering the competitive damage that results from labour markets that are both inflexible and expensive.

The cost of labour including the so-called social overheads for employers in the main European countries varies from \$15 per hour in the United Kingdom to \$24 in Germany. This compares with about \$14 in America and Japan, and \$3 to \$4 in Singapore, Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong. The result has been an erosion of European export performance — the European Community has lost one third of its world export market share since 1985.

This is a relatively new problem for most parts of Europe. In Britain, by comparison, we have had a long experience of losing export markets and have made a start in trying to



turn the problem round. The main ingredients have been allowing managers to make their own decisions through deregulation and privatisation, improved skills training (the best news from Confederation of British Industry surveys throughout the recession so far has been the persistence of positive investment intentions for training) and more flexible labour markets.

It is unfortunate that most EC countries have insisted on going ahead with their social chapter which will lock in their competitive problems rather than learning from past British mistakes. Yet eventually economic pressures will force them to abrogate or ignore the social chapter. The tragedy is that this will only happen after European workers have suffered the lost jobs that are the inevitable result of such empty promises.

The deeper underlying fear for the economies of the English-speaking world for 1992 are that we will have to continue to pay a heavy price for

bursting the inflationary bubble of the Eighties. Although ultimately this inflation became pervasive throughout these economies, the most prominent signs were in the asset markets, especially property.

There are huge long-term economic and social benefits from bursting this bubble. Eventually, when inflation is securely down, there is the prospect of a housing market based on needs without speculation pushing prices out of range of most first-time buyers; of a business climate where the long term yield from investment is more important than the short-term profits from deals, of bankers who will prefer to lend against a genuine track-record rather than finance speculation; and of pay rises based on performance rather than theoretical compensation for inflation.

Achieving these gains will be good for those with skills in providing what customers need and bad for the spivs and wide-boys. They will be good for those who are prepared to

work hard and bad for those who make their living from trading in volatile markets. All societies need their market-traders but the wrong signals are sent if they are excessively rewarded from the fruits of inflation compared with others who also provide essential goods and services. Above all, low inflation will reward the saver, not the borrower, and help reintroduce the virtue of thrift.

But the price of disinflation is similar to that of giving up hard drugs. In Britain much of our financial system has been based on the assumption that inflation will bail out borrower and lender. This reinforced the easy availability of credit during the boom.

The problem is that disinflation has made a sizable proportion of this past lending unviable, leading to bad debt provisions and mortgage reposessions. In America the entire building society sector, the "savings and loans", has had to be bailed out

by the federal government at an as-yet uncertain cost running into billions of dollars. And the credit ratings of the main American banks are lower than those of their blue-chip customers. In the United Kingdom, our financial system did not go as far, but the scale of the unexpected problems has left many bankers shell-shocked. Moreover, a tradition of asset-backed lending means that past practices give little guidance on how to lend in non-inflationary times. And whereas in the long term a rise in saving is an essential ingredient in financing investment, higher saving while the banking system is in this state risks deflation.

Economic theory does not tell us how long this "cold turkey" will last. If only two years, we are nearly through it, and the worst is over; if five years, then there is more bad news to come. The evidence from past history is moderately encouraging — disinflation in the high inflation countries of South America has worked its way through in small numbers of years, while the United Kingdom in the early Thirties had two years of falling output followed by a further year with output flat before a healthy recovery started with growth at an annual rate of more than 4 per cent for five years.

The leading indicators today suggest the belt is just about loose enough to let our economy start moving again. Although monetary growth has fallen sharply, broad money has still expanded by 6 per cent in the past year. With inflation trending to 3 per cent, this should allow some scope for real growth.

The critical factor is confidence, which has been volatile in the past nine months. At present it is weak in both consumer and business circles and may well remain so while the prospects for the economy and for politics remain uncertain. Against that, the measures announced in the autumn statement and since plus any further economic stimuli that might emerge in the coming months should stabilise the position.

This leaves the election. With most commentators hedging their bets about who will win, a Conservative victory would probably have a much stronger positive effect on business and financial confidence than in either 1983 or 1987. A Labour victory (or in some ways worse a hung parliament) would prolong the lack of certainty over the economy, at least until some credibility was established. This might require higher interest rates for a few months and the putting on one side of items of party dogma such as higher income taxes, the minimum wage and raised social benefits.

As a schoolboy cadet learning about target-spotting, I was told that "straight lines never occur in nature". The economy this year may be much the same. It looks as though early 1992 will be weak, the mid-year should show some improvement and the direction at year-end will depend on the election.

This article is the personal view of Professor McWilliams, who is chief economic adviser to the Confederation of British Industry.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

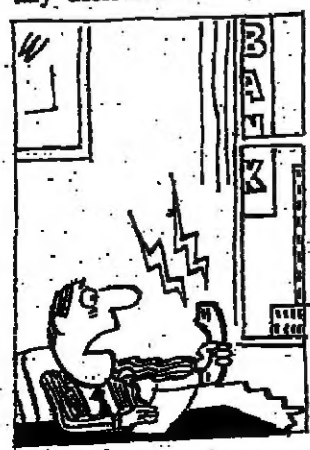
Dynamic duo reunited

SMITH New Court, the broker, is taking yet another stride away from its traditional image as a jobber. The firm, still remembered by some as the Smith Brothers of old, is starting the new year with a strong push into the transportation sector. It has just recruited Mark Laurence, transport analyst at Carr, Kicat & Aitken, to help create a new transport research team. And the move will be something of a reunion, too, since Laurence will find himself once again working alongside Clive Anderson, a fellow transport specialist. The pair had once formed the number one Excel-rated transport team at Kicat & Aitken before its demise in the summer of 1990. Laurence moved on to Carr, Kicat while Anderson, deciding on a change of direction, joined the corporate finance team at Royal Bank of Canada instead. Anderson joined Smith in November, and now he and Laurence are hopeful of regaining their former position in the City's league tables. "We are going to try to rekindle the old flame," says Laurence, a tennis coach in his time, and looking fit and bronzed after a Christmas break, playing tennis in sunnier climes. He starts at Smith today.

Freebie — almost

CITY stickers who fancy a free trip to New York later this year can sign up today — but with two onerous conditions attached. When they arrive there, they will be

obliged to compete in the New York Marathon. And before they step on board the aircraft they must have raised at least £1,250 in sponsorship to help Whizz-Kidz, the charity that buys sports and powered wheelchairs for disabled children and teenagers. The 130 runners who took part in the 1991 challenge raised sufficient to buy wheelchairs for 60 children, and Whizz-Kidz wants to double that number at the 1992 marathon, scheduled for November 1. Michael Dickson, the charity's founder, hopes that the scheme will appeal to runners turned away from the London marathon. "We are recruiting City-based people now for free guaranteed entry to the New York race, and we will pay each runner's travel costs of up to £395," he says. "We have set up a similar incentive scheme to get runners into the Paris and Rotterdam Marathons in March and April respectively. Again, if there is a £1,000 pledge in place, we will pay for travel and two nights' complimentary accommodation." Last



"All I said was happy new year"

year's Whizz-Kidz Challenge Cup was won by a team of City runners led by Richard Gray of Gerrard & National.

Given the bird

WORD now reaches us that fund managers at Rothschild had to endure the hardship of doing some last-minute Christmas grocery shopping after their annual gift of "Christmas turkey each was unexpectedly cancelled. It seems that a cold room housing the birds failed during the weekend before Christmas, leaving the assembled birds all trussed up and nowhere to go. Legend has it that, true to office politics, the size of the bird was to vary in accordance with the seniority of the recipient: the bigger the fund manager, the bigger the turkey.

Double losers

STAFF at the Maxwell family's bankrupt *New York Daily News* have tested a new investment strategy. About 30 employees, including its editor, James Willke, got together to buy a racehorse named *Pension Fraud* running at the Aqueduct track. The pool placed \$225 on the 7-2 favourite. But unfortunately the hacks found that their luck had not changed. *Pension Fraud* came in a distant third. "We got taken again," bemoans one reporter. "But this time, it was with our eyes wide open."

Time out trends

HALF of the senior British executives who lose their jobs expect to be back at work within about six months, according to a new study of employment trends. But the

size of their redundancy package can have an intriguing effect on the length of time that they spend "between jobs". "Most out-of-work executives have signed a new contract within four and a half months," says Gordon Methven, the managing director of Methven Career Development, a career consultancy. "But there is an interesting correlation between the time that they expect to take and the amount of their severance pay. The more they get the longer they take." Many directors are given up to nine months' salary to help them on their way, and some of them may receive a year's salary or more. Three quarters of the redundant chief executives, finance directors and other senior personnel interviewed by Methven cited "not enough new openings" as a significant barrier to re-employment, but a third were worried that a new post might prove too challenging. Others were worried about adapting to a different corporate culture or being relocated.

Whoops!

GREAT boos of our time... the following correction was rushed out by the Press Association news service: "In 1 CITY Rascal (Rascal's takeover victory) read in fourth par 'Rascal chairman Sir Ernest Harrison...' substituting 'Harrison' for 'Saunders'."

THE Reader's Digest has written to its readers to wish them a happy new year. The letter is signed by the company's prize draw manager... one Tom Champagne.

JON ASHWORTH

Germany grows

From Dr J. Pressburger
Sir, Mr Roger Nighingale states in his article "German rate bombshell is just a damp squib" (Business News, December 30): "When it becomes clear that Germany... is headed for its most severe downturn since the Thirties, eyebrows will be raised."

In contrast, Dr Franz Thomas, the highly respected economic editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, quotes the IFO institute expecting a growth of 1.5 per cent for west Germany and 12 per cent for the eastern part, raising the total for the whole of Germany to a growth of 2 per cent in 1992.

Whatever else may affect the economic scene in Germany and the interest rates there, it won't be "the most severe downturn..."

On the other hand, Mr Delors' Social Charter, inducing the hitherto prudent and moderate German trade unions to insist on excessive wage claims may well prompt the Bundesbank to keep these rates at a high level for quite some time to come.

Taking off

From Miss M. Howells
Sir, You write (Comment, December 17) "If consumers ceased to fear debt and unemployment quite so much, they could provide their own fuel of confidence for take off."

With every available plane ticket reported to be sold for holidays abroad this Christmas, the recession appears to have holes. Has anybody worked out where and why? Yours faithfully, M. HOWELLS, 64 Victoria Drive, SW19.

Maastricht muddle on pensions

From Mr D. Lindsay
Sir, The news that a protocol to the Maastricht agreement has reversed much of the right to equal treatment in occupational pensions that the Barber decision had established (Business News, December 13) is hardly a good omen for Europe.

Not only has a pensions "inequality" provision been put in place in just 18 months, while the draft directive on equality in state pensions has languished unpassed for four years; the provision was not debated in Parliament, either at member state or European level, and it totally disregards the principle of subsidiarity.

As the problem created by Barber is to reconcile justice with practicality, it clearly does make good sense to legislate, rather than litigate, but

not then to ignore the very different legal situations in each of the member states. In the UK, for example, it became settled law that pensions were payable in a House of Lords case in 1970; we became bound by EEC law in 1973; and we forbade retirement age discrimination in 1987. Each of these clearly points to the justice and logic of a start date for equality in UK occupational pensions by 1987, at the latest. It is, indeed, a classic case for subsidiarity.

The protocol is, therefore, unacceptable. Yours faithfully, DAVID LINDSAY, Legal Adviser, Campaign for Equal State Pension Ages, 36 Orchard Coombe, Whitchurch Hill, Reading, Berkshire.

Workfare not welfare: the fatal flaw of money for nothing

From Mr J B Shedden
Sir, Reference Dr Eamonn Butler's article on "the employment trap" (Business News, December 19), it should also be mentioned that under present arrangements the taxpayer's commitment to supporting the unemployed does not end at retirement age.

As well as the financial disincentive to work indicated in Dr Butler's table of comparative incomes, the unemployed person has the further disincentive of knowing that in due course he will receive a retirement pension for which the normal contribution requirements have been excused.

It will be supplemented, in all probability, by the contribution of rent and community

charge rebates, etc; so that even in retirement his income may be close to that of many who were in employment for all of their working lives and who will have to continue to support him from the tax levied on their own retirement incomes.

This adds weight to Ralph Howell's proposal to replace employment benefit with the offer of a realistic wage for working in environmental or social projects. This idea has much to commend it, despite obvious difficulties.

Logically, such a scheme could be extended to include students in higher and further education.

Instead of grants, students could be offered a realistic wage for undertaking approved courses of study. As in

Free advice

From Sable M. Fanshawe
Sir, The banks say that the costs would be prohibitive for them to send out notices to all their customers every time they change the interest rates on deposits.

But there is a quite simple solution: they should print the interest rate on the bank statements. It would entail a minor change to their existing software (which could take place during regular software maintenance) and no additional costs, since the banks send out the statements anyway (my bank sends me one every time I request it).

Can anyone tell me why this cannot be done, or why it is not currently being done? Yours faithfully, SABLE M. FANSHAW, Flat 2, 12 Gratwicke Road, Worthing, West Sussex.

the case of any other wage, the amount to be paid could depend on attendance, performance and progress. Higher rates could be used to attract students into disciplines where there were shortages of skilled and qualified people.

These arrangements might give the taxpayer better value for money while at the same time relieving students from the financial pressures which can often affect their performance at present.

In addition, the anomalies of the parental contribution to grants would be removed. Yours faithfully, JOHN B. SHEDDEN, 6 Barnfield Close, Crockenhill, Swanley, Kent.

هنا من الاول

TODAY IN BUSINESS

COLD TURKEY



The "cold turkey" cure for Britain's economic ills is working but may take time, says Douglas McWilliams, CBI economic adviser, in a personal view of 1992
Page 29

MCC MOVE

An Anglo-American solution to the legal wrangling over Maxwell Communication has been agreed
Page 28

ALL CLEAR



Lawrence Eagleburger, America's deputy secretary of state, has cleared the way for British Aerospace to proceed with a \$100 million order for BAe 146 aircraft to Iran
Page 28

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8678 (-0.0027)
German mark 2.8404 (same)
Exchange index 91.4 (-0.1)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10 1/2%
3-month Interbank 11-10 3/4%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/4-10 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/4%
Federal Funds 4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.85-3.86%
30-year bonds 10 7/8-10 7/16%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ \$1.8678
£ DM2.8389
£ DM1.5175
£ SfrF1.3590
£ FF5.1845
£ Yen124.85
£ Index 91.4
ECU £0.76117
ECU1.398419
SDR1.309805

Decline in fees raises pressure to cut costs

More job losses expected at merchant banks

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE City's merchant banks are facing further job losses and cost-cutting this year after another fall in the volume of mergers and acquisitions business and continuing pressure on fees.

The value of bids completed last year fell to £10 billion, compared with £12 billion in 1990 and a record £55 billion in 1989, according to *Acquisitions Monthly*, the specialist corporate finance magazine. Fees earned by the City's merchant bankers, accountants and solicitors from mergers and acquisitions work fell from £180 million to £145 million. This compares with an estimated £800 million at the height of the merger boom in 1989.

Philip Healey, editor of *Acquisitions Monthly*, said merchant banks have been quietly laying off staff all year.

"They come from both ends of the spectrum — both the younger bankers who joined in the boom and the older corporate financiers, who are leaving to make room for younger executives. Unless we see a dramatic upturn in activity, there will be a lot more redundancies."

Merchant banks are also concerned that the political uncertainty surrounding the general election this year will deter companies from launching bids.

Mr Healey said: "The financial climate and the raw materials for deals are there; only the confidence is missing."

The year saw very few large bids. Only three were worth more than £500 million: BTR's successful offer for Hawker Siddeley, Lasmio's failed attempt to take over Ultramar, and Williams's unsuccessful bid for Racal.

Morgan Grenfell has regained its position at the top of the league table of M&A advisers after five years. The bank advised on 11 deals, worth £2.43 billion, including the defence of Ultramar.

The bank's lead position demonstrates the success of Deutsche Bank's takeover two years ago, while proving that the bank has rid itself of any stigma from the Guinness affair.

Michael Dobson, the chief executive, said the bank had achieved its success through hard work, adding: "It's nice to be there and we are going into 1992 with a bigger backlog of work than we have had for some time." The bank is advising Redland in its bid for Steeley, and is expanding on the Continent and in America.

Morgan Grenfell came second in 1990 and has overtaken Baring Brothers, which slumped to twelfth position in the league table. J Henry Schroder Wagg advanced from sixth to second in after working on 21 deals — more than any other bank — worth £2.36 billion.

David Challen, the head of Schroders' corporate finance department said the result was characteristic of the bank.

He added: "We would hope always to be in the top handful of banks, since we have a wide range of clients. You cannot invent M&A business but you can help your clients identify opportunities."

The surprise star of the league table was Hambro Magan, the small corporate finance boutique, which climbed seven places to fifth. The improvement was almost entirely due to its role in the

two bids by BTR, a former Morgan Grenfell client.

The list also shows that some of the newer arrivals in the City are prospering, while more established names are finding it difficult to win business.

Goldman Sachs came third in the league, up one place, and was by far the most successful American house in London. Mr Healey said: "Goldman is always there in any mega-bid in Britain these days."

The year has not been so good for either Hambros, which could only manage twentieth place, or Lazard Brothers, which slumped from third to seventeenth place.

Mr Healey said the downturn in business had forced the merchant banks to search for business. "The ability of first division banks to concentrate on first division business went out the window. They are trying to cover overheads and are handling much smaller deals."

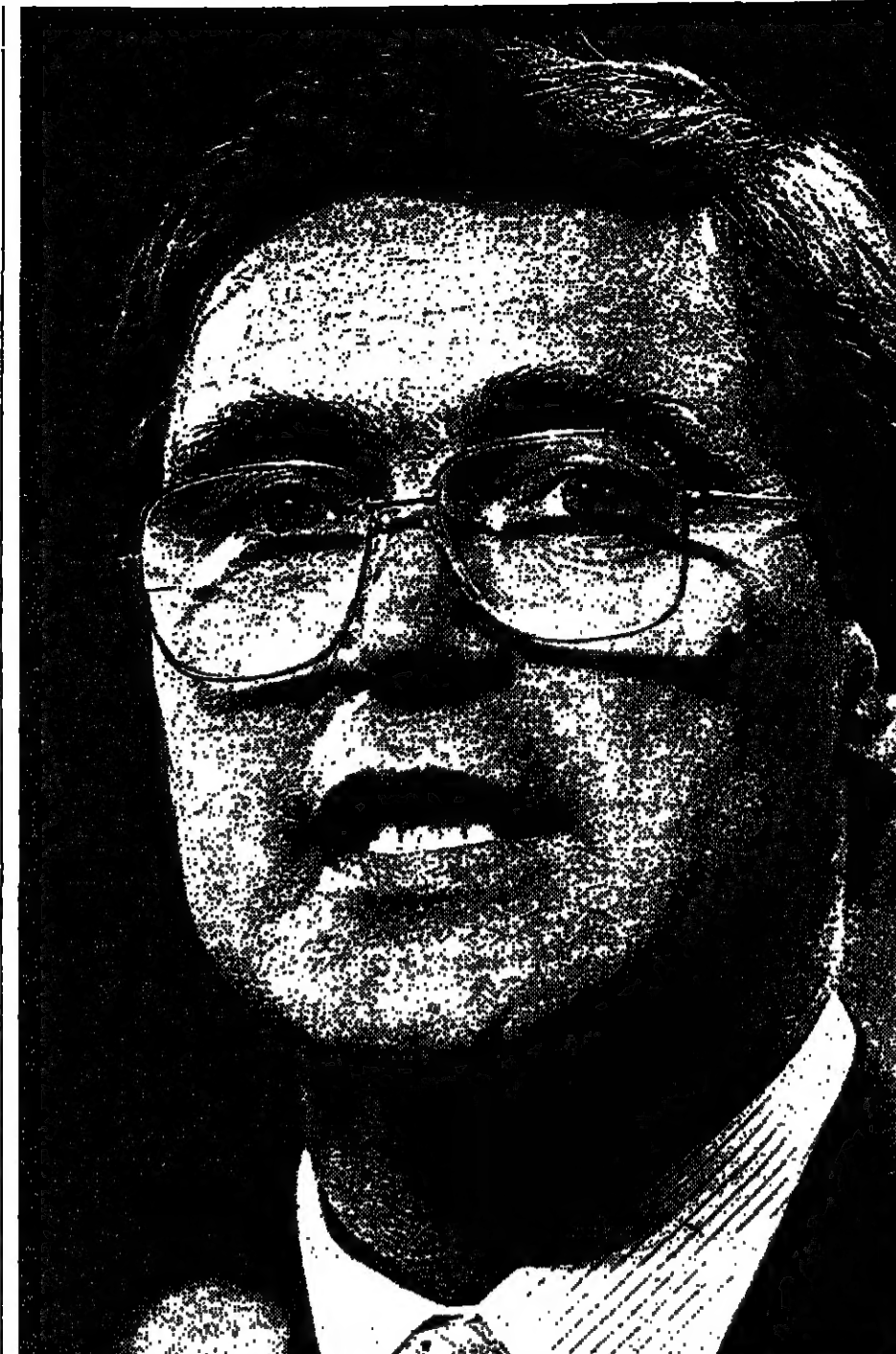
American merger volume in terms of dollar value plunged 31 per cent to \$145.60 billion last year from \$211.90 billion in 1990, according to preliminary estimates from Securities Data.

European merger volume fell 41 per cent to \$118.30 billion last year from \$201.90 billion in 1990, with worldwide activity falling 38 per cent to \$311.50 billion from \$498.4 billion in the previous 12 months.

THE 1991 MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS LEAGUE TABLE

Financial adviser	No of deals	Value £m
1 Morgan Grenfell (2)	11	2,426
2 Schroders (5)	21	2,355
3 Goldman Sachs (4)	3	2,201
4 SG Warburg (8)	11	2,102
5 Hambro Magan (12)	3	1,646
6 BZW (5)	7	1,527
7 Rothschild Group (9)	7	1,459
8 Kleinwort Benson (13)	12	1,359
9 Morgan Stanley (2)	2	1,174
10 County NatWest (17)	6	852

Source: *Acquisitions Monthly* (1990 ranking in brackets)



Taking a lead: Bill Jordan, who is advocating a partnership with industry

AEU's single-union push could provoke TUC rift

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of Britain's biggest manufacturing union have written hundreds of employers in Wales, praising single-union deals. In an initiative likely to provoke concern among rival unions, the Amalgamated Engineering Union provides a list of contact numbers for its regional and national officers.

Trades Union Congress rules prohibit unions from poaching one another's members. Although the AEU confines itself to detailing the benefits of single-union deals it has concluded, other un-

ions, especially the MSF technical union, might see its action as a threat.

Ken Gill, outgoing MSF general secretary, has sharply criticised single-union deals, arguing that they deprive employees of the right to choose their representatives.

The recession has triggered a sharp fall in the membership of many unions as companies shed jobs. The AEU has responded aggressively by seeking sole representation in new manufacturing plants, and by arranging a merger with the smaller EETPU elec-

tricians' union. If that goes ahead, the AEU will become Britain's second-largest union, with almost a million members.

The approach to Welsh employers is an attempt to capitalise on the AEU's moderate and progressive image. The union has produced a brochure entitled *A Progressive Partnership*, designed to sell the benefits of AEU representation to employers.

In his introduction to the brochure, Bill Jordan, AEU president, who received a CBE in the New Year honours, says his union is "leading the way to a progressive partnership with industry and the improvement of industrial relations".

He predicts: "The days of multi-union bargaining are numbered. If companies are to prosper, as we all wish, then a new approach to trade unionism is needed."

The AEU, Mr Jordan says, believes "single-union agreements are the most effective way of ensuring a new enterprise is successful, profitable and prosperous".

The union signed its first significant single-union agreement in 1976. That was with Sony, the Japanese electronics group, at Bridgend, south Wales. Since then, it has concluded 17 more such deals.

Typically, they cover all employees, including quite senior management, provide for total job flexibility within the capacity of the individual, and make independent arbitration binding if the union and a company cannot settle differences.

Sizeable productivity gains have resulted.

Pressure on pound likely to continue

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

THE pound, which ended last year near its annual low, is expected to come under renewed pressure today, when European and North American currency markets reopen after the holiday.

Severe pressure on sterling will reinforce City conviction that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, may be forced to sanction a half-point increase in the base rate to prevent a run on the pound, rather than expend large amounts of official reserves, even though these stand at an historically high \$43 billion.

The money markets have been expecting an increase in base rate to 11 per cent since the Bundesbank raised both its key lending rates aggressively on December 19. On New Year's eve, the pound closed in London at DM2.8369, less than half a penny from the point at which the Bank of England is obliged under exchange-rate mechanism rules to support the currency.

Chris Dillow, economist at Nomura Research, said it was difficult to see what would help the pound when the markets open fully. He added: "Without recovery, backbencher calls for devaluation, or leaving the ERM, are not going to disappear, nor is a turnaround in confidence likely in the next few months."

Keith Skopec, chief economist at James Capel, said it would be "touch and go" whether Mr Lamont could avoid a base rate rise.

Official reserves data out tomorrow will show how much the Bank of England intervened to support the pound in December. Forecasts centre on an underlying increase of about \$200 million, but this reflects the sale of the government's BT stake. Excluding this, intervention was probably modest.

Comment, page 29
Stock markets, page 28

US trade policies attacked

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AUSTRALIA, the leader of the Cairns Group, the agricultural exporters lobby, has attacked America for pursuing policies that could break the world up into feuding trade blocs — the Americas, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. Paul Keating, Australia's new prime minister, made his criticism in a note to President Bush during talks in Sydney.

Australia believes the way to avoid a damaging bloc formation would be to concentrate on a successful outcome to the world trade talks. America, the European Community and Japan are seeking to establish the final positions they will adopt towards the take-it-or-leave-it package of draft texts for a world pact under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The Uruguay round package was presented on December 20 by Arthur Dunkel, GATT director general, who gave warning that it could not be unravelled without threatening the whole agreement. There has been no sign of an end to the transatlantic dispute over farm subsidies.

Study could hit Glaxo's top seller

BY MARTIN WALLER

AN AMERICAN medical study has suggested that Zantac, the world's biggest-selling pharmaceutical and the main money-spinner for Glaxo, the drug group, should carry a warning to patients. Research has indicated that it might raise blood-alcohol concentrations in social drinkers.

Another long-established and widely prescribed anti-ulcer drug, Tagamet, made by SmithKline Beecham, is also pinpointed. Both companies' share prices are likely to come under pressure today as the City takes note of the study, in the journal of the American Medical Association.

Glaxo said other studies had found no link between Zantac and blood-alcohol. SmithKline Beecham described the study as "academic", since patients were advised not to drink heavily.

The study, by a team led by Dr Carlo DiPadova and Charles Liever at Mount Sinai Medical Centre, New York, suggests that patients prescribed the drugs, especially social drinkers who drive vehicles or operate machinery, should be warned. It says Zantac (ranitidine) and Tagamet (cimetidine) increased blood-alcohol concentrations by 34 per cent and 92 per cent respectively over baseline measures in a group of 20 healthy white males aged 24 to 26.

The team also tested the effects of alcohol consumption on patients taking another anti-ulcer compound, Merck's Pepcid. In that case, it reports, changes in blood-alcohol were not significant.

A Glaxo spokesman said that in the 11 years Zantac had been on the market, it had been intensively studied. Research last year on a group of 40 patients, twice the number

tested at Mount Sinai, had shown no such link between the drug and blood-alcohol. Earlier this year, Dr Ernest Mario, Glaxo's deputy chairman, said he did not expect Zantac's sales to decline in the next five years.

SmithKline Beecham accepted that Tagamet, on the market for 15 years, would, by reducing acid secretion, be likely to increase stomach absorption of any substance.

Glaxo, Britain's biggest pharmaceutical company, has been one of the best-performing shares on the London stock market in recent years, and its rise has been fuelled almost entirely by Zantac. In the last financial year, the drug contributed almost half Glaxo's sales and, analysts believe, more than half its profits. Twice last year, the company brought legal ac-

tions to defend Zantac's parent, SmithKline Beecham, is far less dependent on Tagamet. Since the Anglo-American merger in 1989 that created the group, the drug has accounted for a little more than a tenth of sales and has been overtaken as a revenue-earner by Augmentin, an antibiotic.

Meanwhile, SmithKline Beecham received approval from the Food and Drug Administration for Relafen, a drug for rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis.

A study showed that a combination of two antiviral drugs, Wellcome's AZT compound and the experimental drug dideoxycytidine, made by Hoffmann-La Roche, seems to raise the number of white blood cells that are important in building up resistance to Aids.



Mario: Zantac forecast

Pension funds 10% ahead of inflation

BY OUR CITY STAFF

DESPITE the stock market upsets of last year, British pension funds more than kept their collective head above water, producing an average return of almost 17 per cent and a real return, discounting inflation, of more than 10 per cent.

The WM Company, which has analysed the performance of British pension fund portfolios over the past 18 years, says that returns over a longer period than just 12 months are also keeping ahead of inflation.

Over the past five years, it says, the average return on a pension fund has been almost 10 per cent, despite the stock

market crashes of 1987 and 1990. The WM study adds that while individual fund returns will vary around the average, funds that are equity-oriented and not too exposed to property will have benefited in relative terms.

Equities, both British and overseas, dominated the results, producing returns of 20.5 and 20.8 per cent respectively, but British and overseas bonds also made good running.

The worst-performing areas, inevitably, are property and UK index-linked stocks.

With the United Kingdom property sector excluded, the average return rises to 18.6 per cent. In overseas equities,

the benefits of investment in the American market, which provided a return of more than 35 per cent for the sterling investor, were counterbalanced by significantly lower returns from continental Europe, of 13 per cent, and from Japan, of 14 per cent.

The Japanese result, however, reflected currency factors and the weakness of the pound, the local investor seeing a small positive return of 2 per cent.

UK bonds outstripped the results available from other monetary assets, giving a 19 per cent return against 15 per cent from overseas bonds and 13 per cent from cash and other investments. Over the course of the year,

equities rose as a proportion of the average fund, from just over 70 per cent at the start of 1991 to almost 80 per cent. WM says this reflects a switch out of United Kingdom bonds and cash into overseas equities in particular, where the proportion of the total rose to 23 per cent from 18 per cent over the year.

Within overseas equities there was a marked movement towards Japan (up from 18 per cent of the total to 24 per cent) and away from both continental Europe (down from 38 per cent to 33 per cent) and America (down from 29 per cent to 28 per cent). These changes run contrary to the trends of recent years, according to WM.

Main categories	Estimate for 1991
UK equities	20.5
Overseas equities	20.8
UK bonds	18.4
Overseas bonds	19.5
Index-linked	5.6
Cash/other investments	12.2
Total assets (excluding property)	18.6
UK property	-2.4
Overseas property	12.4
Total assets (including property)	18.9
Retail price index	4.8
Average earnings index	7.1

Source: WM Company



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